

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MANAGEMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2024

Present

Chairman: Cllr B. Larcombe

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr P. Evans, Cllr P. May, Cllr C. Reynolds, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr D. Sarson, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operating manager) M. Green (deputy town clerk), A. Mullins (support services manager), P. Williams (acting operations manager)

23/77/TMH Public Forum

J. Breeze (read out by an officer)

J. Breeze spoke in relation to agenda item 16, 20mph Speed Limit. She congratulated the town council for its increased focus on traffic issues in Lyme Regis and for taking the initiative to invite residents to partake in a 'Our Future Transport' event this month. She said over many years, residents had consistently cited an improvement in traffic management in the town as a priority to ensure wellbeing and safety. She said the imperative to come up with new solutions to old problems was all the more urgent given the council's commitment to sustainability. J. Breeze said at the council's meeting on 4 October 2023, following a representation from residents from different areas of Lyme, the council supported residents for a 20mph in the town. To support that request, since early last year a number of Community Speedwatch activities had been successful conducted in Lyme. She said if she was not convinced before, these sessions had strengthened her view that in many areas of the town, 30mph was wholly inappropriate. She said she had recorded speeds of 45mph approaching a stretch of Sidmouth Road without a pavement and with a blind bend. J. Breeze said along Queens Walk, she had witnessed how even speeds of 30mph posed danger to pedestrians. She said Broad Street was also a problem area, both during busy summer days but also in the evenings when visibility was reduced and reckless drivers sped along Cobb Road and out along Lyme's three main exits, Charmouth, Sidmouth and Uplyme Roads. She believed a good percentage of residents along those routes would express their concerns regarding speeding, noise and air pollution. J. Breeze attached a document to her letter, which was sent separately to members. She said the documents compiled responses to her enquiry among neighbours as to whether they supported reduced parking and a reduced speed limit in Lyme Regis. She said she was not alone in her concerns and the respondents had asked her to share their views and concerns. She said they were yet to see improvements and speeding motorbikes and the like actually appeared to have increased in number. She said she and the neighbours who had written to her were asking the council to support a 20mph speed limit throughout the town and further parking restrictions in dangerous areas.

J. Trevena (read out by an officer)

J. Trevena also spoke in relation to agenda item 6, 20mpm Speed Limit. He said since last summer, he had been the organiser of the Lyme Regis Community Speedwatch team which, weather permitting had been running regular Speedwatch sessions at locations approved by Dorset Police. He said these locations had been selected such that they had visibility of approaching motorists for some distance, and vice versa. He said as they also wore yellow fluorescent jackets, they were used to cars slowing significantly once they saw them in situ with the radar gun, reducing the number of vehicles they recorded breaking the present speed limits. J. Trevena said it was clear from the sessions that the road layout over much of Lyme Regis, with exceptions, acted to limit speeds to below the present 30mph limit, although this didn't mean it was necessarily the appropriate speed limit, given the proximity to pedestrians and children, as well as a number of roads that were only wide enough for a single stream of traffic at any one time. He said they had recorded a number of vehicles on Sidmouth Road going into and out of the town centre travelling at speeds in excess of 35mph, with one car recorded at 45mph. J. Trevena said this road was used by many pedestrians to access the town centre and even lacked a footpath in places and this coupled with the speed of some motorists could only be a serious accident waiting to happen. He said at most of the sessions, the public had engaged them in conversation and almost all spoke of their own traffic concerns and offered their support for the 20mph zone. He said as a consequence of this engagement, he believed there was widescale support for this scheme among the town's residents. He said the main reasons he supported the introduction of a 20mph zone in Lyme Regis were firstly safety. Although the precise numbers were open to challenge and debate, he said it was irrefutable that the faster a vehicle was travelling the higher the probability that in a collision a pedestrian would die. J. Trevena said the risk was around four times greater at 30mph than 20mph. He said slower speeds also gave more time for motorists and pedestrians to react to potential incidents, reducing the number of accidents in the first place. Secondly health, as slower traffic could reduce emissions, providing cleaner air to the benefit of everyone, as well as encouraging more people onto bicycles or to walk to the benefit of their health. He said the impact to motorists in terms of the increase in journey times through the proposed 20mph zone would be insignificant. He said the road layout over much of Lyme Regis was such that 30mph was often not achievable and reducing the speed limit to 20mph would have minimal effect.

S. Hudson (read out by an officer)

S. Hudson spoke in relation to agenda item 15, Cemetery Postbox. She said she came from a military background and had a son currently serving with 5 Rifles. She said in her lifetime, she had seen so many grieving families, she had lost count, especially during her son's service, while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. She said she had spoken with several families who had lost loved ones in conflict about this wonderful idea of enabling people to write letters to their loved ones who had passed over, especially grieving children. S. Hudson said with services like grief counselling being what they are, with huge waiting lists, she felt this could really help people going through difficult times. She said for those who didn't get to say a final goodbye, the post box would give them that opportunity. She said grief is grief, however a loved one passes, and people often didn't get to say everything they would like too to their loved one. She said she hoped those involved would vote in favour of this wonderful idea.

T. Dowd (read out by an officer)

T. Dowd spoke in relation to agenda item 15, Cemetery Postbox. He said he supported the idea of a letters to loved ones postbox being placed in the cemetery in Lyme Regis. He said everyone would experience grief at one time or another in their lives and something like this could be a great comfort, especially to younger ones who could find grief difficult to cope with. He said writing to a loved one in heaven and posting in a special letter box would be such a support in Lyme Regis.

L. Wiscombe (read out by an officer)

L. Wiscombe spoke in relation to agenda item 15, Cemetery Postbox. She said she thought it was a lovely idea that she fully supported. She said the aftermath of losing someone close is bad enough, but for a child it was much worse. She said she had seen this technique used very effectively, by the child bereavement charity, Winston's Wish. She said it was part of a multiple treatment plan that allowed the young person to process difficult feelings, as a result of their loss and promoted a healthy way of dealing with their grief. She said there was no reason why the postbox couldn't also help adults that were grieving, in coming to terms with their loss, in the same way. L. Wiscombe said she understood the postbox had already been donated, so the scheme would cost Lyme Regis Town Council nothing, but could benefit many. She hoped the council would with her and put it forward as a project to wholeheartedly support.

23/78/TMH Apologies

Cllr M. Ellis – charity commitment

23/79/TMH Minutes

Members discussed the accuracy of minute 23/68/TMH, Outdoor Gym Equipment as some members felt the recommendation didn't reflect the debate at the meeting.

Cllr C. Aldridge said Cllr C. Reynolds had said there wasn't enough for people to do in the town but this had been incorrectly minuted as 'young people'.

Members debated whether the recommendation was inaccurate as it referred to installing gym equipment on the putting green in Lister Gardens, but some members felt this was not what was agreed.

The deputy town clerk said the Full Council had voted to pass the resolution so if members wished to move forward with a different location, this would require a rescission motion and a vote at Full Council.

The minute taker left the meeting at 7.40pm and the chairman adjourned the meeting to confirm if the minute taker would return.

The meeting reconvened at 7.55pm with the operations manager taking the minutes.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr P. May, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 January 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

23/80/TMH Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr B. Bawden declared an interest in agenda item 14, Floodlights at Anning Road Playing Field, as she lived close to the proposed site.

The operations manager and Cllr P. Evans said the item had been withdrawn from the agenda as the request to use floodlights had been withdrawn.

23/81/TMH Dispensations

There were none.

23/82/TMH Matters arising from the minutes of the Town Management and Highways Committee meeting held on 3 January 2024

CCTV

Cllr D. Sarson asked if the proposed CCTV at the skatepark would be able to view the allotments in addition to the skatepark. The deputy town clerk explained that the camera would have a panning function and may be able to view some of the allotments as it would be on a tall pole but it was not the primary purpose of the camera.

Cllr P. Evans said the CCTV at the football club may also view the allotments.

Traffic and Travel Working Group Minutes

Cllr B. Bawden confirmed with the deputy town clerk that a copy of the submission of the Active Travel infrastructure plan would be sent to all members.

23/83/TMH Update Report

Amenities Hut

Cllr C. Aldridge asked about the amenities hut project options.

The deputy clerk elaborated on the current position.

23/84/TMH Town Management and Highways Committee – Objectives

The deputy clerk said the planning authority required a planning submission for the multi-use games area but that in discussions with a potential contractor, planning permission would usually not be required.

23/85/TMH To receive the minutes of the Traffic and Travel Working Group meetings held on 20 December 2023, 17 and 31 January 2024

Cllr B. Bawden talked through the minutes with regard to context and background at Dorset Council.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked when the vision would be brought to this committee.

Cllr P. May said it would hopefully be available for the next meeting.

Cllr D. Ruffle asked about the Living Streets event in September. Cllr B. Bawden elaborated.

Cllr B. Larcombe asked if Cllr B. Bawden, with regard to the Vision, could outline Dorset Council's position and what Cllr B. Bawden as the ward member, and as a town councillor was advocating, if different. Cllr B. Bawden explained.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr P. May, the minutes of the Traffic and Travel Working Group meetings held on 20 December 2023, 17 and 31 January 2024 were **RECEIVED**.

23/86/TMH Weed Spraying Policy and Procedure review

Members were content to confirm the policy and procedure unchanged.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Reynolds, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to confirm that the policy and procedure has been reviewed and will continue unchanged.

23/87/TMH Dorset and Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Local Transport Plan 4

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to consider the survey, provide a sense of their response and delegate the completion of the survey to the town clerk in consultation with the Travel and Transport Working Group.

23/88/TMH Public Engagement Event on 'Our Future Transport' on 20 February 2024

Cllr B. Bawden said it was not a Dorset Council event.

Cllr P. Evans asked if members of the public could ask about banning traffic on the Cart Road.

Cllr P. May said the issue was about making the Cart Road more pedestrian friendly.

Cllr P. Evans asked if the event could be well publicised on the council website news section.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support and publicise the Our Future Transport event and cover any costs of displays of town council proposals.

23/89/TMH Request for a Memorial Plaque

Several members had concerns about setting a precedent when the memorial tree waiting list had been closed but were generally in favour of the idea.

Cllr B. Larcombe said it was at members' discretion to make an exception to install a plaque for former staff or councillors.

Cllr P. Evans suggested a plaque on the amenities hut. It was then suggested that a new cherry tree be purchased and placed next to the Cllr Barbara Austin memorial tree.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr B. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to write to the widower of the member of staff and explain that there are no more trees available and the waiting list closed but that an

exception would be made, and area for a new tree would be selected, perhaps placed near to the Cllr Barbara Austin memorial tree.

23/90/TMH Request for temporary and removeable floodlights at Anning Road Playing Field

The agenda item was not discussed as the request had been withdrawn.

23/91/TMH Cemetery Postbox

Proposed by Cllr C. Reynolds and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to install a cemetery postbox.

There was some discussion about who would empty the postbox and it was generally agreed that a staff member, rather than a councillor, should empty it.

Cllr P. Evans asked if Cllr C. Reynolds could be present at the emptying of the postbox and that it was promoted on the website and publicised in the residents' newsletter.

Proposed by Cllr P. Evans and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Cllr C. Reynolds be present at the emptying of the cemetery postbox and that it was promoted on the website and publicised in the residents' newsletter.

23/92/TMH 20mph Proposal

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Sarson, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support the 20mph zone across Lyme Regis and to add Timber Hill as it falls outside the proposed zone.

23/93/TMH Uplyme 20mph

Members were generally in agreement to support Uplyme's proposal and hoped they would reciprocate.

The operations manager said officers would liaise with Uplyme Parish Council.

Proposed by Cllr B. Larcombe and seconded by Cllr C. Aldridge, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support the Uplyme Parish Council 20mph area and communicate that via officers to Uplyme Parish Council.

23/94/TMH Hedgehog Crossing Sign

There was some discussion whether this sign was needed on Summerhill Road, rather than anywhere else, but the acting operations manager said there were some local residents feeding hedgehogs near there and that they were regularly crossing the road in that location.

Proposed by Cllr B. Bawden and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approach Dorset Highways and request a hedgehog crossing sign at the bottom of Summerhill Road.

23/95/TMH Complaints, Incidents and Compliments

Members noted the report.

The meeting closed at 9.27pm.