

**LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Present**

**Chairman:** Cllr R. Smith

**Members:** Cllr B. Bawden, Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr P. May, Cllr. Brian Larcombe, Cllr S. Cockerell, Cllr D. Ruffle, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner.

**Officers:** M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), A. Shepherd (administrative and community engagement assistant)

**Guests:** V. Elcoate (River Lim Action Group) J. Leah (Great Big Dorset Hedge)

**24/52/ENV Public Forum**

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

**24/53/ENV Apologies**

Cllr C. Aldridge  
Cllr B. Larcombe  
Cllr B. Bawden  
Cllr G. Turner

**24/54/ENV Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January were **ADOPTED**.

**24/55/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8, River Lim Action Group Report, as he was a member of the group, and he was also a member of the Dorset Climate Action Network.

**24/56/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

## **24/57/ENV Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 17 January 2024**

### **Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

The operations manager confirmed the price of electricity had changed and was now 60p kWh, which was what was being charged previously. The information on the sign stating that customers were being charged 10p over the rate had been covered over as this was no longer valid. He added at present, the sign did not have a charging rate on it.

### **Carbon Literacy Training**

The operations manager said he had applied for silver level accreditation and he was waiting to hear back from the Carbon Literacy Organisation (CLO). The council paid for the accreditation nearly a year ago, so he hoped this application would be sufficient for accreditation.

Cllr P. May recommended that all the members, if they hadn't already completed it, should consider taking the course next time it was available.

## **24/58/ENV Update Report**

There were none.

## **24/59/ENV River Lim Action Group Report**

The chairman invited V. Elcoate from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG) to speak.

The operations manager asked if the full biodiversity report was available yet for the council to view.

V. Elcoate said it was not ready yet as RLAG were having problems with the formatting but the discussion document and the summary had been completed and would be posted onto the Turn Lyme Green website. She said the Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, ongoing monitoring, and the signal crayfish were all things that had emerged from the report which the RLAG could now follow up on.

As the council had already agreed to pay RLAG up front for monitoring kit, Cllr P. May asked officers if the money could be paid as soon as possible as members of RLAG were using their own money.

The operations manager advised V. Elcoate to contact the finance manager to have the money transferred.

V. Elcoate said the Church Cliff Beach bathing designation application had been approved by Defra and was now at the consultation stage. She asked the council to share the consultation as much as possible.

Cllr P. May asked for the consultation to be promoted on the council website.

The operations manager said the next bathing water quality meeting had been organised for 12 March 2024.

V. Elcoate said she planned to write to South West Water and ask for a tour of the sewage treatment works. She said she would also reserve four spaces for the town council.

#### **24/60/ENV Funding Transfer Great Big Dorset Hedge to Little Green Change**

The operations manager said although this was unusual, it was legitimate to transfer funding to another organisation, provided the same services were being undertaken and the council was content to do so.

The chairman invited J. Leah from Great Big Dorset Hedge (GBDH) to speak.

J. Leah said progress had been slow but there had already been engagement with the community. She said those involved with Little Green Change were teachers of various environment specialities and were passionate about teaching children. She had met with the acting operations manager about how they could investigate the grounds and hedges owned by the council and that this could also involve the local school.

J. Leah informed said she was aware the funding had to be spent by 31 March 2024 but she felt this was too much pressure to complete the tasks in this time, mostly due to carrying out school work with the Easter holidays approaching. She said any schools that participated in March would not be able to carry out any of the relevant surveys during this time period.

Cllr S. Cockerell asked if the money needed to be spent by the end of March or if it just needed to be allocated. She asked if they could have until August for data submission, and the end of this academic year (September) for presenting the final report back to the town council.

The operations manager said he would need advice from the town clerk and finance manager.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr D. Ruffle, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to transfer the remainder of the grant from the current Great Big Dorset Hedge project to Little Green Change, allowing for the funding to be carried over into next financial year, such that the project must be finished by September 2024.

#### **24/61/ENV Bathing Water Quality Meeting 4**

Cllr R. Smith asked what MST data was

V. Elcoate said MST stood for microbial source tracking; she went on to explain what it meant in detail.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to ask officers to write to South West Water asking them to share details of the relevant sections, concerning Lyme Regis and the River Lym, in their investment programme that they would be presenting to Ofwat.

**24/62/ENV Potential Installation of PVs on the flat roof above toilets, rainwater harvesting and use in the gardens, 'grey water' use and recycling in Marine Parade toilets and the change to a metered electricity supply to gardens lighting**

Cllr P. May asked to clarify if this was the potential installation for the photovoltaic (PV) panels, currently in the budget, that had been carried over.

The operations manager said the PVs in the current budget were for the amenities hut. He said members could either allocate some of next year's environment budget towards it, or there was a small amount left over from this year's environment budget that could be carried over and allocated towards this next year.

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr P. May, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to support further work to investigate the potential Installation of PVs on the flat roof above the toilets, rainwater harvesting and use in the gardens, 'grey water' use and recycling in Marine Parade toilets and the change to a metered electricity supply to gardens lighting.

**24/63/ENV Use of Biodiesel in Council Tractor and Other Vehicles**

Cllr R. Smith asked where the tractor was stored and where the planned biodiesel would be kept.

The operations manager said the tractor was stored at the end of Monmouth Beach car park and that was where the intended space would be.

Cllr P. May said he understood the council's biggest user of diesel was the tractor so he felt it would be a good idea to move to as much use of biodiesel as possible, particularly with the tractor, as this would reduce emissions dramatically.

Cllr R. Smith asked if the council could consider asking other businesses on the seafront if this was something they would be interested in too.

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr R. Smith, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to consider the principle of running the council's tractor and, possibly other diesel vehicles in the current fleet, on biodiesel and providing a pumped and bunded tank at or within the Monmouth store to facilitate this and investigate further into the possibility of a combined biodiesel facility for other businesses on the seafront.

**24/64/ENV Budget Spend**

Cllr P. May suggested the remainder of the 2023-24 environment budget was put toward the projects agreed at this meeting.

The operations manager said members would need to pick a specific project to allocate carried over funding to.

Cllr R. Smith asked if the project didn't happen this year, could the money be carried over into the next financial year.

The operations manager said this was possible.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Cockerell, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the £4,496 left in the 2023-24 environment budget is earmarked to go towards changing to use of biodiesel in council tractor and other vehicles, in principle.

*The meeting closed at 7.45pm.*