

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2024

Present

Chairman: Cllr S. Cockerell

Members: Cllr C. Aldridge, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr G. Turner, Cllr J. Trevena, Cllr D. Ruffle

Other members: Cllr S. Larcombe

Officers: M. Adamson-Drage (operations manager), K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant)

Guests: V. Elcoate, G. Roberts (River Lim Action Group), C. Matheson (Little Green Change) J. Leah (Dorset Climate Action Network)

24/01/ENV Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr G. Turner and seconded by Cllr J. Trevena that Cllr S. Cockerell is chairman of the Environment Committee.

Cllr S. Cockerell was duly **ELECTED** as chairman.

It was proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr G. Stammer that Cllr J. Trevena is vice-chairman of the Environment Committee.

Cllr J. Trevena was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

24/02/ENV Terms of Reference

Members noted the terms of reference.

24/03/ENV Public Forum

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

24/04/ENV Apologies

Cllr P. May – holiday
Cllr C. Prichard – holiday

24/05/ENV Minutes

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G Turner, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2024 were **ADOPTED**.

24/06/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

24/07/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

24/08/ENV Matters arising from previous meeting held on 28 February 2024

Members noted the report.

24/09/ENV Update Report

Members noted the report.

24/10/ENV Great Big Dorset Hedge update from Little Green Change

The chairman brought this item forward on the agenda and invited J. Leah from Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN) to speak.

J. Leah said more people were engaging with the project as a whole and that Dorset CAN had found it to be very successful. The project showed good outcomes, with people doing more planting as a result, and it had been an effective pilot project which could now be rolled out across the county.

The chairman invited C. Matheson from Little Green Change to speak and she presented her report on the project.

The operations manager said there would be a move from Dorset Council to declare a nature emergency in the future, which might open doors to additional funding available to the group down the line. He suggested declaring a nature emergency may be something this committee wished to discuss at a future meeting.

24/11/ENV Update on Bathing Water Quality Meeting 5

The operations manager said a further meeting (6) had taken place on 18 June 2024 and the minutes would be brought to the next meeting of this committee.

A member asked if South West Water were still intending to do the upgrades.

The operations manager said the upgrades had been scheduled for 2027, but there were no firm dates or details yet.

24/12/ENV Update from River Lim Action Group

The chairman invited G. Roberts from the River Lim Action Group to speak. G. Roberts spoke about the ecological report on the river. He urged the council to remove the Himalayan Balsam and Japanese knotweed in the river near the lynch as health and safety issues meant the group had been advised to keep out of that part of the river.

G. Roberts said the group was discussing the clearing of the river with the Environment Agency, which would only clear vegetation that might cause further flooding.

The operations manager said the council could look at the weir to see how it could be addressed but ownership of the lynch was uncertain. It was agreed advice would be taken from the deputy town clerk.

It was agreed further updates would be brought to the next meeting.

24/13/ENV Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

Members discussed the importance of maintaining the accreditation when new employees and members joined the council.

The operations manager said the accreditation was valid for three years so the council would need to revisit the training with the same frequency to ensure it was up-to-date with any new criteria.

It was noted former town councillor Belinda Bawden had delivered the training previously at no cost to the council, so this would potentially be a cost in the future. It was agreed further discussions would take place with Belinda Bawden about the process for ongoing training and accreditation.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council publicises its silver level Carbon Literacy accreditation as much as possible on council website and in any other appropriate ways.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council looks into further carbon literacy training for new members and new employees to keep the silver accreditation up to standard.

It was agreed a report would be brought to the next meeting with further information about meeting the ongoing criteria.

As the carbon literacy logo would now be added to the council website, it was suggested Little Green Change's logo and information also be added.

Proposed by Cllr G. Stammers and seconded by Cllr G. Turner, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that the council includes Little Green Change's logo and information on the town council website.

24/14/ENV eRIB Round Britain update

Members noted the report.

24/15/ENV Update on Contaminated Land Strategy Consultation

Members discussed the best way to respond to the consultation and it was agreed the operations manager would contact all members to determine who would like to work with him on formulating a response on behalf of the council.

Cllr S. Larcombe indicated that he would like to be involved.

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

A member asked why the Bill only included bikes and scooters and not vehicles, as they might be more dangerous because they are kept indoors and at entrances to flats, which posed more risk.

Proposed by Cllr C. Aldridge and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** 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.

Meeting closed at 7.46pm.