

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2025

Present:

Chairman: Cllr S. Cockerell

Members: Cllr M. Denney, Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr P. May

Other members: V. Elcoate, J. Breeze

Officers: A. Mullins (support services manager), A. Turner (operations manager)

Absent: Cllr G. Turner

24/46/ENV Election of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr S. Cockerell and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers that Cllr P. May is vice-chairman of the Environment Committee.

There being no other nominations, Cllr P. May was duly **ELECTED** as vice-chairman.

24/47/ENV Public Forum

G. Roberts

G. Roberts from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG) said the group had released a report, which were the results of last year's pollution, and had secured funding from East Devon to host two events to raise the group's profile within the wider catchment. The first would be a public presentation at the Pine Hall on 14 March 2025. There would be a leaflet drop to every household to advertise this as there had been criticisms in the past that the group was not inclusive, so they were trying to gauge the opinion of the wider catchment. The event would include speakers from farming and protected landscape and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, who could also advise on available grants. The second event was a complimentary breakfast, paid for by East Devon, for landowners, with 50 invites being sent to farmers and riparian owners. The event was an opportunity to share the information RLAG had gathered, particularly on pollution. He said farmers contributed to the pollution but were not the cause so they wanted to address this with them at a personal meeting. The town council would be invited to the event a landowner, as it would give an overview of council-owned land and what could be done to improve biodiversity and to make the river more resilient to climate change.

24/48/ENV Apologies

Cllr C. Aldridge – prior commitment
Cllr S. Larcombe
Cllr A. Wood – holiday
G. Barr

24/49/ENV Minutes

It was noted the deputy town clerk was on the attendance list but was not present, and the town clerk was present but was not on the attendance list.

It was also noted Cllr G. Stammers' name was incorrectly recorded as J. Stammers.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024, with the above amendments, were **ADOPTED**.

24/50/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were none.

24/51/ENV Dispensations

There were none.

24/52/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2024

Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation

The operations manager said the deputy town clerk would undertake training to be able to train others in the organisation, with other managers also potentially being trained to deliver.

Budget

It was noted the council had not agreed to allocate £25k specifically to this committee but it had put forward projects for 2025-26, which had been largely accepted by the council.

24/53/ENV Update Report

Updates from Community Organisations

V. Elcoate said following the recent bathing water quality meeting, Dorset Council had put money in its budget to carry out a survey of highway drainage assets on Marine Parade and Cobb Road and pollution on Front Beach.

V. Elcoate said the RLAG had done a survey of the river to pinpoint problems and South West Water (SWW) was tackling pollution in the lower parts of the river. RLAG had published a monitoring report at the end of 2024, which included a list of action points and recommendations, and the group had written to the Environment Agency (EA) to ask for an action plan to improve water quality at Church Cliff Beach. The EA had produced an action plan and the group would hold them to account on this.

Use of Biodiesel/HVO in council vehicles

It was noted biodiesel would be used in the town bus and it was queried whether the park and ride bus could also use it. It was noted that the council hadn't asked the park and ride operator to use biodiesel, although this was something to think about in future.

24/54/ENV Climate and Nature Survey, Dorset Town and Parish Councils

It was noted this was a fact-finding exercise by DC so there was no particular expertise required to respond. However, it was suggested this exercise could form the basis for developing the council's nature policy.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to delegate Cllrs P. May and S. Cockerell to work with officers to formulate a response to the Town and Parish Council – Climate and Nature Survey.

24/55/ENV New Waste Regulations (Simpler Recycling in the Workplace, England)

It was noted local information events about the new regulations had not been well attended by local businesses and that storage of the bins, especially in Broad Street, would be a major issue. It was suggested the town council needed to have a proactive approach to engage with businesses to find out what the issues were and whether the council could do anything to help them. The disposal of food was considered to be the most significant issue.

The support services manager said although it wasn't the town council's responsibility to manage waste from commercial properties, it would impact the council because of its tenants on the seafront and at the chalet and caravan park. It was noted the council would also be required to separate its own waste.

It was agreed it would be beneficial for the town council to discuss practical solutions with businesses and DC.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to delegate Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Cockerell and J. Breeze to set up a meeting to bring together local businesses, the town council and Dorset Council to discuss the new waste regulations and practical solutions.

It was also agreed information about the regulations should be included in the council's business briefings.

24/56/ENV Solar Communities

It was suggested the council could proactively encourage PVs on residential properties, by gathering together people who are interested in doing this and bringing in trusted suppliers. It was noted Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) would be happy to help implement a plan. As government grants would be available in June for domestic solar, this would be a good time to progress the idea.

It was suggested a meeting be set up with DCAN to progress this and Cllr M. Denney and V. Elcoate agreed to be involved.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr M. Denney, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to set up a meeting with Dorset Climate Action Network to progress the idea of a scheme to install solar panels on residential properties, to include Cllr M. Denney and V. Elcoate.

24/57/ENV Strategic plan for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030

It was suggested the current plan for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 wasn't a strategy, but more of a list of works, and it required further development to make it into a strategy.

It was suggested the plan was restrictive as it focused on the council's activities, rather than engagement in the community, and it needed to look wider to be meaningful.

It was queried whether a baseline of net zero was carried out when the plan was formulated. It was also suggested every action should have a carbon reduction target against it and the strategy should be broadened to include nature.

The support services manager said key performance indicators were identified in 2022 so these could be used as a baseline.

It was suggested a small group developed a climate action strategy and Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Cockerell and V. Elcoate agreed to be involved.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr G. Stammers, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** that Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Cockerell and V. Elcoate develop the council's climate action strategy, to be presented to the Environment Committee for approval.

24/58/ENV Migration to Electric Powered Vehicles

Members noted the use of biodiesel may be an alternative to replacing all the current diesel vehicles with electric.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.