

LYNTON AND LYNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, LYNTON ON THURSDAY 30TH JUNE 2005 @ 2.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: T Parker (Town Mayor)
B Hobbs (Deputy Mayor)
Mrs C Bowden
Mrs S Hibbert
B J Howells
C Lethaby
B Peacock
Mrs E Rodway
Mrs C F Sim
J F Travis
B O Windsor

Officer: Town Clerk

Also in Attendance: County Councillor Mrs Andrea Davis

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor T Prosser

The meeting opened with Prayers led by Councillor T Parker

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Prior to the commencement of the formal Council meeting Councillor Parker adjourned the meeting to enable the general public to ask questions of the Council.

Mr K Blackwell representing LLAMA had noted on the agenda that there was a letter of complaint relating to the recent festival but he had understood that a letter of support had also been sent to the Council but no mention of this had been made. The Town Clerk informed him that this letter had been received too late to be included on the agenda.

Mr B Hobbs, felt that the Council were not involving themselves enough with regard to the redevelopment of the Pavilion and requested they be more proactive in the future.

WELCOME TO COUNCILLOR B J HOWELLS

Councillor Parker, on behalf of the Town Council, welcomed Councillor Howells onto the Council and looked forward to working with him.

He also welcomed Councillor Mrs Andrea Davis to the meeting in her capacity as our new Devon County Councillor.

Councillor Parker reported that David Brooks, who had recently had a minor operation, was doing well and would be back to work soon.

037/05 MINUTES

RESOLVED. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 26th May 2005 copies of which had been previously circulated be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

038/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MINUTES

- a. **309.310 Bus Route Lynton** (Lynmouth to Barnstaple)
This item to be discussed in detail in the North Devon District councillors report.

039/05 COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Letter from Devon County Council concerning footpath Lydiate Lodge, Lynton**

A copy of this letter had been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting. The letter stated that the footpath would not be re-opened and that it had not been adopted as a public right of way but only used on a permissive basis. Councillors took this matter very seriously as this path had been used for years by local residents, even before Lydiate Lodge was built and felt immediate action should be taken to have it re-opened.

RESOLVED

- i. As a Council, to take steps to have the footpath designated as a public right of way.
 - ii. Write to Devon County Council, Director of Social Services protesting in the strongest possible terms and asking them who have permissive permission for this path and to whom it was given.
 - iii. County Councillor Andrea Davis requested to fight this matter on behalf of the Town Council and residents of Lynton & Lynmouth.
- b. **Ilfracombe & Northern Rural Area Committee – Consultation arrangements.**
Councillors had received a copy of this letter prior to the meeting and the contents were noted. The Town Clerk reported that he had received a letter from the County Environment Director with regard to the signing of the A39/A361 roundabout and new urban relief road in Barnstaple which he had suggested to the Chairman of the Ilfracombe and Northern Rural Area Committee, could be the first agenda item for a meeting, Councillor Travis reported that there had been a slight delay in appointing a Chairman as the original election had resulted in a tie and a further election had to take place.
- c. **Lynton & Lynmouth Music Festival – letter of complaint.**
A letter of complaint had been received and circulated to members. However a letter of support had been received too late to put on the agenda. Councillor Hibbert was disappointed to learn that there had been a complaint as she felt the festival had been a great success.

She and fellow councillors thanked members of LLAMA for all their hard work.

RESOLVED

Both the letter of complaint and the letter of support to be taken to the next meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee.

040/05 OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

There was no outstanding business

041/05 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED:

That the open reports of the following committees, having been circulated, be received and noted and the recommendations contained therein adopted, subject to any matters annotated.

Special Council Meeting 25th May 2005

Approved

Estates & Amenities Committee 8th June 2005

Minute number 026/05 Matters for Recommendation b. Valley of Rocks Position Statement Wringcliffe Bay. Councillor Peacock asked the present position with regard to this item as members of the public were using the beach. Councillor Travis stated that something should be done about the path to this beach as it was very unsafe. The Town Clerk reminded members that the Valley of Rocks Management Group were to look into this matter and report back to the next Estates & Amenities meeting.

Minute Number 026/05 Matters for Recommendation h. Decision Register item I Market hall/Finger Posts – Councillor Hibbert asked for the words Lynmouth Traders to be amended to ‘Lynton Traders’.

RESOLVED

This minute to read i. Market Hall/Finger Posts – Councillor Hibbert reported that this was ongoing, Lynton Traders would like a finger post stating ‘Old Village Shops’ and she was negotiating finances with them.

Policy & Finance Committee 15th June 2005

Minute number 033/05 Matters for Recommendation c. Quality Council. The Town Clerk reported that his draft submission had been proof read by Councillor Travis, Leslie Smith of the DAPC had also seen the draft. All that was required now was a copy of the web page with photographs of Councillors and the Mayor to sign the submission.

RESOLVED

The Mayor to sign the submission.

A copy of the submission to be tabled for members at the next meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee.

Minute number 033/05 Matters for Recommendation d Advertising Council Amenities. Councillor Lethaby requested a position statement and was informed that this item was on the agenda for the next meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee.

Minute number 033/05 Matters for Recommendation e. Finger Posts. Councillor Parker asked that the original plan of painting one finger post outside the Town Hall be actioned, to enable members of the public to make comments on the colour etc. Councillor Hobbs stated that the original sponsorship he had secured for this matter was still available if the Town Council wished to take up the offer. Councillor Hibbert reminded the meeting that Devon County Council were prepared to provide financial assistance for this.

RESOLVED

The finger post outside the Town Hall be painted and Councillor Hobbs to take up the offer of sponsorship for this item on behalf of the Town Council.

Minute number 033/05 Matters for Recommendation f. Decision Register item i Zig Zag Path. Councillor Hobbs reported that Mr Allen had been appreciative of the help he had received from the Town Clerk and the support of the Town Council in general, and thanked members.

Minute number 033/05 Matters for Recommendation f. Decision Register item iii Beggars Roost Road Closure. Councillor Lethaby reported that the gate was still shut and padlocked. County Councillor Davis who was looking into this matter reported that occupier of the farm was entitled to shut the gate but not padlock it.

RESOLVED

Councillor Lethaby to give the facts to County Councillor Davis who would report the matter.

Minute number 033/05 Matters for Recommendation f. Decision Register item ix. Scaffolding Outside Lloyds Bank. Councillor Parker informed the meeting that the licence for the scaffolding expired on the 22 July and that a new application would have to be made after that time.

RESOLVED

Recommendations against this license being renewed until after the summer season be made.

042/05 REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Valley of Rocks Management Group – 29 June 2005. A meeting of this Committee had taken place to discuss the implications of the proposed cattle grids and fencing.

Councillor E Rodway declared a prejudicial interest in the Valley of Rocks as she is the grazier. She left the room and did not take part in the debate or vote.

The exact position of the cattle grids was yet to be decided but the fence line was more definite. Councillors felt that enough time had lapsed now and that this fence needed to be erected as quickly as possible as residents were still having trouble with goat depredation. It was reported that North Devon Homes were going to erect a fence around their properties but they did not know how much of a deterrent this would be to the goats.

RESOLVED

- The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman of Estates & Amenities Committee, chairman of Policy & Finance Committee and the Town Clerk to meet the following morning to look at all the tenders received for the fencing work.
- The town Clerk to them talk to the successful tendered and obtain staged prices for the proposed work.
- The Town Clerk to meet with DEFRA to look at the proposed sites for the cattle grids.

043/05 POLICE REPORT

The Police representative had been called out before the meeting started and therefore there were no crime statistics to report. The Town Clerk reported that several letters which formed part of the first requirements of the Anti Social Behaviour Orders had been issued and the general public had been requested to report immediately any incidents of anti social behaviour they might see

RESOLVED

PC Bourne be asked to provide the Lyn Valley News with details of the sort of incidents they would like reported etc.

044/05 MOTIONS

There were no notices of motions

045/05 QUESTIONS

There were no questions pursuant to standing Order Number No. 24

046/05 ENQUIRIES AND REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

There were no Enquiries.

Councillor Travis reported:

1. He had serious news with regard to the future of Garson House. Both he and our new County Councillor Andrea Davis had been working hard but the outlook was not good. They had been informed that although a local business man had made an offer for the property, Devon Social Services could not give him guarantees of support and therefore he had withdrawn his offer, also he did not get much support from the owners of the property the Devon Community Housing Society. Although they had asked for the closure to be delayed until mid August when beds would be available at Lydiate Lodge, the Devon Community Housing Society had decided to close Garson House on the 1st July. In the light of the fact that the manor House Residential Home was also for sale, Councillor Travis was very concerned for the future of the elderly in Lynton & Lynmouth.
2. Exmoor National Park had received a grant of £60,000 in recognition of their success in meeting Governments planning delivery targets £30,000 was to be allocated to two projects, one being Winsford and the other for the Valley of Rocks Car Park. They had agreed in principal to put £15,000 towards the greening of the tarmac in the car park plus help with a planting scheme.

RESOLVED

The Town Clerk to meet with the Exmoor National Park to determine the level of support they would be prepared to give.

3. Councillor Travis reported that he had attended to meetings in his role as an Executive of the District Council. The cattle market at South Molton had been discussed at one of these meetings and his reason for mentioning this fact was that the site of the old cattle market was to be sold for redevelopment as a medical centre and therefore there would be another project competing for funding money which would possibly be allocated to Lynton & Lynmouth.

RESOLVED

Councillor Bowden to look enquire about this at the next meeting with Primary Care Trust.

4. Councillor Travis felt very strongly about the lack of service the First Bus Company were providing. Previous to their new improved service, two buses a day ran direct from Lynton & Lynmouth via the bus station to the railway station, now this service had been stopped and only a shuttle service ran from the bus station to the train station. The Town Clerk reported that he had written a letter of complaint but had yet to receive a reply. Councillor Travis suggested that perhaps our County Councillor could make representations on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED:

County Councillor Mrs Andrea Davis to contact First Bus and make strong representations on behalf of Lynton & Lynmouth Town Council to reinstate the service to visiting the station direct twice a day.

The Town Clerk to write asking to First Bus asking them to review the situation and reinstate the service.

047/05 ENQUIRIES AND REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

There were no enquiries.

Councillor Davis opened her report by apologising for not attending the first Council meeting after being elected as County Councillor but it had conflicted with Devon County Council's meeting.

She was involved with the present situation regarding Garson House and concurred with the sentiments of Councillor Travis. She reported that she had met with Devon Social Services who informed her they would keep the beds open for their clients until mid August but this clearly had not happened. She was very disappointed with the current situation and felt that they had reneged on their promise. Lydiate Lodge were being pressured to take clients but they would only have 2 beds available and that would not be until mid August. She felt that Devon Community Housing were ignoring the code of 'best practice' and that once Garson House had closed it would not re-open again as a residential home. The question of the charity status of Devon Community Housing was discussed and Councillor Davis also reported that she had spoken to Nick Harvey MP who was appalled at the situation but had no control over the future of the home.

Councillor Davis reported that she had been elected onto the Committee of the Exmoor National Park and that her remit covered the area from County Gate to Woolacombe to just above the Hospital in Barnstaple. She then outlined several other committees to which she had been elected.

The question of finger posts was briefly discussed and Councillor Travis pointed out that ex County Councillor Mike Knight had been on the Traffic management Committee and that County Councillor Davis might like to take his place.

Councillor Hobbs mentioned the scaffolding outside the bank which was up for renewal in July and pointed out that there was an 'unwritten law' that no works of this nature took place during the summer season. The state of the barrier at the top of Lynmouth Hill was also mentioned.

048/05 REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST REPRESENTATIVE

Councillor Bowden reported that although Middleham Gardens was moving on apace and Anne Thorne was doing a grand job, there were still problems with the funding. Councillor Hibbert reported that she felt the District Council had abandoned them and the possibility of litigation against the LCDT was being discussed..

049/05 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk reported that

1. Following a recommendation from Policy & Finance, he had looked into the shortfall of monies concerning the LCDT which was in the region of £6,000.
2. There were continuing problems with regard to the sewage works and foul smells but a further meeting had been arranged.
3. He had received a letter of support for the Lynton & Lynmouth Music Festival which would be brought to the next meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee.
4. Exmoor National Park would be holding a planning design workshop at the town Hall on Friday 8 July and Councillor Travis encouraged Councillors to attend if possible.
5. A Letter from Lyn Lions had been received with regard to their xraft race, requesting permission for cars to park on the foreshaw, which was supported.
6. The Town Clerk reminded Councillors of the licensing seminar to be held in the Town Hall on 6 July.

Councillor Hobbs requested that the Town Clerk remind the car park attendants to direct cars into coach bays when not in use.

050/05 REPORTS OF ANY OTHER COUNCILLORS

There were none

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. **Ref: 62/41/05/014 Lynton Hospital, Lee Road, Lynton**
Formation of new exterior steps, railings and fencing to frontage (Full)
CONDITIONAL PERMISSION GRANTED
- b. **Ref: 62/41/05/013 46B Lee Road, Lynton**
Change of use of ground floor offices to one bedroomed flat with related external changes (Full)
CONDITIONAL PERMISSION GRANTED
- c. **Ref: 62/41/05.015 Park Farm, Lydiate Lane, Lynton**
Erection of 15m monopole supporting 3 No antenna and 2 No dishes together with equipment housing and compound (Full)
CONDITIONAL PERMISSION GRANTED
- d. **Ref: 62/41/05/017 Londis, 5 Lee Road, Lynton**
1 Alteration of frontage to create separate access to first and second floor flat. " Extension to rear of shop with balcony above following demolition of existing floor space. 3 Creation of separate flat within existing basement floor space and alterations to roof above (Full).
CONDITIONAL PERMISSION GRANTED

05205 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

The meeting closed at 4.07pm

Chairman