

LYNTON AND LYNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, LYNTON ON THURSDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2005 @ 2.30pm

PRESENT:

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

Also in

Attendance: Devon County Council Councillor Knight

Officer: Town Clerk

Apologies: There were none

The meeting opened with Prayers led by Councillor Mrs E Rodway

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Prior to the commencement of the formal Council meeting there was an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

Mr David Mirrow, Vice Chairman of the Lynton & Lynmouth Traders Association expressed the Traders thanks to the Council for reconsidering and amending the car parking charges. He wishes it to be noted that the recent press reports had not come from the Traders Association who were keen to work alongside the Council in any further negotiations and it was suggested that a representative from the Traders Association might like to attend the next MCTI meeting in March.

Mr Bryn Howells of Orchard House Hotel who was quoted in the press report, stated that his comments had been made in an email and taken out of context.

Mr Ashley Clarke of the Cliff Railway, reaffirmed the Cliff Railways original offer of allowing free passes to people who parked in Lynton but worked in Lynmouth and felt that the parking problems were a long term issue. Councillor Bowden thanked him for his very generous offer.

262/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 27th January, 2005 copies of which had been previously circulated be confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

263/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM COUNCIL MINUTES

Item 234/04 Police Report - Councillor Sim requested that the wording be slightly altered to read "... *He acknowledged that there was an ongoing problem with the 'youngsters' outside the Town Hall building but this was being addressed.*"

Item 241/04 Enquiries and Report of the District Councillor – Councillor Travis was happy to report that Devon County Council had received a better than expected settlement and therefore more money would be released for affordable housing although it was unlikely that Lynton & Lynmouth would receive any of this.

Councillor Travis asked the outcome of a letter to the Devon Community Housing Society with reference to Garson House but the Town Clerk had not yet received a reply.

264/04 COMMUNICATIONS

A letter had been received from the Lynton & Lynmouth Traders Association thanking Council members for amending the car parking charges.

A letter had been received from a local hotelier requesting payment for goat damage to an oil tank and would be considered at Policy Committee

Several letters and emails had been received requesting the Council reconsider the car park charging hours., it was noted action had already been taken

265/04 OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

There was no outstanding business

266/04 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.

Estates & Amenities Committee 9th February 2005

Minute number 250/04 Matters for Recommendation (a) Town Hall Refurbishment item 5 Public Telephone in Entrance Foyer.

Councillor Travis requested to know the present position with regard to the proposed public telephone and also the users of the Jubilee Room. He was informed that this matter had been referred to a Special Council meeting which had been postponed awaiting further information.

RESOLVED

A Special Council Meeting be held on Thursday 3 March at 11am to discuss these matters.

Minute number 250 /04 Matters for Recommendation (b) Valley of Rocks
Councillor Mrs 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 on same when this item was discussed.

Item 2(b) fencing, recommendation (a) – Councillor Travis discussed the question of the proposed fence through the Valley of Rocks and requested this be moved so as not to be visible from North Walk. It was confirmed that this was the Council's intention

Minute number 250 /04 Matters for Recommendation (b) Valley of Rocks, item (4) car park – the question of the surface of the car park was discussed in detail with the options of tar and chip, greening and full renewal of the surface being considered.

RESOLVED

- i That the Council spend the minimum amount necessary to make the car park safe and useable.
- ii The Valley of Rocks Working Party and the Traffic Management Group work together to consider this issue as a matter of urgency
- iii The Town Clerk to obtain costs for renewal and greening of this car park.

Minute number 250/04 Matters for Recommendation (b) Valley of Rocks item (3) goats, recommendation (c).

Councillor T Prosser declared a prejudicial interest in the Valley of Rocks/goats as he is a local resident. He left the room and did not take part in the debate or vote on same when this item was discussed.

The following wording be added to this recommendation: *'The number of goats to remain the same until after the fence has been erected and in situ for one year when the impact of both can be assessed. However, should there be problem with the herd in the interim, the Council should re-assess the problem immediately'.*

Councillors asked if a date for the commencement of the fencing works had been reached yet. The Town Clerk explained that there were still problems with regard to the exact routes, the ownership of the metal fencing and the type of cattle grids required but hoped that work would commence within the next two months.

Minute number 250/04 Matters for Recommendation (d) request for Memorial Bench. Councillor Bowden pointed out that there would be room for Memorial Seats to be placed in Middleham Gardens.

Minute number 250/04 Matters for Recommendation (f) Consultation Letter – Proposed Vodafone Base Station, Park Farm, Lynton.

RESOLVED

The words 'subject to approval by Exmoor National Park' be removed and this recommendation to read '*The Town Council would support the application in principal*'.

Minute number 250 /04 Matters for Recommendation (g) Allotments – Claim for Goat Damage.

Councillor Mrs E Rodway declared a prejudicial interest in the Allotments as she is the grazier in the Valley of Rocks. She left the room and did not take part in the debate or vote on same when this item was discussed.

Councillor Mrs C Sim declared a prejudicial interest in the Allotments as she is in dispute with the Allotment Holders. She left the room and did not take part in the debate or vote on same when this item was discussed.

The Town Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in the Allotments as he is in dispute with the Allotment Holders. He left the room and did not take part in the debate.

Councillor Gold felt that this recommendation did not go far enough and that the Allotment Holders should be compensated in full but other councillors felt this was inappropriate.

RESOLVED

This matter be once again placed on the Agenda for the next Estates & Amenities meeting for further discussion.

Minute number 250 /04 Matters for Recommendation (h) The Denes Doone Run – 18 September.

Councillor C Lethaby had received representation from the organiser of this run with regard to the Council's policy of not allowing tables and chairs to leave the Town Hall.

RESOLVED

This matter be placed on the Agenda for the next Policy & Finance Committee to consider.

Minute number 250 /04 Matters for Recommendation (I) Decision Register

1. Councillors asked if a date had been arranged for the Hydro Electricity presentation.
2. Councillors were informed that Nick Backhouse of Eco Exmoor was looking for sites to install solar power.

RESOLVED

1. Councillor Gold was given further dates to arrange the Hydro Electricity Presentation.
2. Eco Exmoor be put on the Agenda for the next Policy & Finance Committee and Mr Backhouse be invited to make a presentation prior to that meeting.

Policy & Finance Committee 16th February 2005

Minute number 255/04 (b) Car Parks – Issues arising from changes proposed for 2005/06

RESOLVED

As allowed by Standing Order 36a, the resolution contained in Minutes 105/04(d) September 2004 be rescinded and replaced with the recommendations contained in minute 255.04(b) February 2005.

Personnel Committee 16th February 2005

Minute Number 261/04 (2) Seasonal Staffing – Arrangements for 2005.

RESOLVED

Car Park wardens and attendants to be instructed to redirect cars from Lynmouth up to Lynton if car parks full.

Minute Number 261/04 (3) NALC – Implications of the National agreement on salaries and conditions of service of local Council Clerks in England and Wales.

RESOLVED

Item iii be amended to read *'That any salaries paid to Town Council employees had to be increased by 15% to take account OF costs'*

267/04 REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Councillor Hibbert reported that the Traffic Management Group had held an excellent and constructive meeting. She thanked County Councillor Knight and James Anstee for their help over the recent traffic order. She reported as follows:

1. Destination signs and pedestrian routes were discussed.
2. A quotation was being obtained for new finger post signs.
3. Rumble strips were to be placed at Barbrook but not near houses and not yellow in colour.
4. No further information to impart on the bus route
5. The condition of the car park at the Valley of Rocks had been discussed.
6. Future parking and the possibility of a feasibility study was discussed.
7. The A39 Blackmoor Gate to Rowley Cross road to be resurfaced very soon.
8. On road car parking restrictions to be lifted in Park Street, Park Gardens and Lydiate Lane.

Councillor Travis mentioned the 3 long term issues that needed to be addressed, namely:

- 1 Possibility of double decking the Esplanade Car Park
- 2 Parking in front of the Cliff Railway
- 3 Double Decking Lower Lyndale Car Park.

268/04 POLICE REPORT

Unfortunately, the Police representative could not attend the meeting as he had been called away. However, the Town Clerk reported crime figures of 6 for the month which included 1 assault, 1 theft and 2 burglaries, 3 of which had been detected. Crime figures for the same period last year were 9.

The Question of the youngsters forming larger groups and committing acts of minor vandalism was discussed and the police were aware of this.

269/04 MOTIONS

There were no notices of motions

270/04 QUESTIONS

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

271/04 ENQUIRIES AND REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

There were no enquiries of the District Councillor.

Councillor Travis reported that he had attended a District Council meeting the evening before and at this meeting they had approved the budget for the next year which included a Council tax rise of 3.5%. The capital programme for 2005/06 included two items for Lynton & Lynmouth namely Hobbs Yard affordable housing and the Esplanade car park cliff repairs. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that repairs to the Harbour Arm were also to be included subject to a grant being obtained.

272/04 ENQUIRIES AND REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

There were no enquiries of the County Councillor.

County Councillor Knight reported:

1. On the rise in Council Tax.
2. Capital Works for Lydiate Lodge and felt it very important that this type of care remain for Lynton & Lynmouth.
3. Affordable Housing would be proportioned to Districts.
4. Roadwork's between Blackmoor Gate and Rowley Cross to commence after Easter

At this point Councillor Knight informed the meeting that this would probably be his last meeting as, after 16 years, he was not standing for-election this time. He had very much enjoyed his association with Lynton & Lynmouth over the years and wished the twin towns well. Councillor Bowden thanked Councillor Knight on behalf of the Town Council and the twin villages for all his help and support over the years and Councillor Travis reiterated this and wished him a very long and happy retirement from politics.

273/04 REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST REPRESENTATIVE

A recent meeting had been held of the Community Development Trust and matters were moving forward. Middleham Gardens would be opening latter this summer. The reported grant of £4,000 had now dwindled to £2,300.

274/04 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk reported that most matters were covered under the Decision Register but reported:

1. The Annual Parish Meeting was to take place on Thursday 31st March at 8pm
2. Greensweep had made a request to the Council for a site suitable for holding domestic waste sacks from flat holders. Councillors were requested to contact the Town Clerk with any suggestions.

3. Councillor Hibbert enquired who was to clean the Shelter on the Manor Grounds as this was not being done. The Town Clerk to take action if possible and report back to Councillors if it was not possible.

RESOLVED

The Town Clerk to voice the concerns of the Town Council to Green Sweep reference refuse being left on the Street.

275/04 REPORTS OF ANY OTHER COUNCILLORS

There were none

276/04 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

**277/04 EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK PLANNING
RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were none

The meeting closed at 4.15pm

Chairman