

LYNTON & LYNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM.

PRESENT: **Councillors:**
C Sleep (Mayor)
S Hibbert (Deputy Mayor)
A Hobbs
A Meakin
J Patrinos
B Peacock
M Pearce
A Rodway
A Seckleman
(Vacancy)

Officers: Town Clerk and Town Council Secretary

Also Present: County Councillor A Davis

167/20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

168/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Hawkins.

169/20 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor Hibbert declared an interest in item 10, Planning as she is a direct neighbour and had received communication from Exmoor National Park regarding the application. Councillor Patrinos declared an interest in any planning items as he is on the Exmoor National Parks Planning Committee.

170/20 MINUTES

RESOLVED

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17 December 2020, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Mayor.

171/20 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Cleverdon sent an update, as the police are unable to join virtual meetings at this time. There have been 3 crimes reported. The Police are concerned with damage being caused by 4x4 vehicles and off road motorcycles across Exmoor including Brendon and Ilkerton commons. They are working with both Exmoor National Park Authority and National Trust to combat this activity.

172/20 COVID MATTERS

Members were sent a table outlining workforce cover during Covid Lockdown 3 arranged by Town Clerk and Works Foreman. This was agreed.

Councillor Rodway joined the meeting.

173/20 VACANT POLICY & FINANCE SEAT

A request was put to Members to fill the vacant seat on the Policy & Finance Committee. Council is unable to co-opt as an election has been called for. Councillor Sleep would step into the Vice Chair seat. Councillor Hobbs volunteered to fill the vacancy.

174/20 LYN WORK HUB

Councillor Patrinos read the following background piece:

As we all know our area, because of its beauty, is almost entirely dependent on the visitor economy to provide work and income. However, this makes us extraordinarily vulnerable to any downturn in tourism, as we have seen over the last 12 months. One way of gradually reducing this over-dependence on a single sector is to gradually diversify into other industries. The current broadband project will help us do this. However we also need some physical infrastructure so, with LLTC backing, a grant application for a Work-hub was submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership and was successful. The grant will be paid to the Council who will use it to refurbish a town centre building as 6 offices and 4 hot desks that will all be available for short term rental.

It was

RESOLVED

Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council welcomes the grant of £100,000 to this much needed economic development project in our area and will proceed with the project. This was carried with 2 abstentions, Councillor Peacock felt there was not enough information and Councillor Hobbs would rather investigate the use of Town Hall.

Members then considered establishing a task and finish group for this project and Councillors Sleep, Patrinos, Harding and Rodway volunteered for this.

175/20 FILERS TRAVEL – REQUEST FOR SIGNS BOTTOM MEADOW COACH PARK

Filers, the operator of the 309 and 310 bus services between Lynton and Barnstaple, and the school bus service to Ilfracombe Academy, have for many years had an arrangement with LLTC to park three vehicles (2 service buses and one coach) overnight in Bottom Meadow. In order to ensure compliance with current regulations, Filers have applied to the Office of the Traffic Commissioner to register this car park as a secondary operating centre on their Public Service Vehicle Operators Licence. This was rejected and in order to resolve this, Filers propose to erect signs in the grass verge at the rear of three of the coach parking spaces, as follows:

*Reserved Parking for Filer's Travel Ltd; Hours of Operation 18.00 to 7.00
Monday to Sunday (including Bank Holiday)*

It was

RESOLVED

To support the request for signage but re-wording the sign so that it clearly states the hours of operation. This detail, at present, is not obvious enough.

176/20 PLANNING

Councillor J Patrinos reminded members that as in all planning matters, when he obtains additional information on applications when attending Exmoor National Park Planning Committee this may necessitate him changing his views

62/41/21/001 – Bay View House, Clooneavin Path, Lynmouth

Proposed loft conversion and alterations, including new dormer in the second floor and new entrance and access to the second floor from the road. It was

RESOLVED

To have no objection to the application as long as the sea facing façade and roof level stay the same.

It is to be noted, Councillors Hibbert and Patrinos abstained from voting.

177/20 PLANNING DECISION

62/41/20/025 – Old Laundry Studio, Cavendish Place, Lynton

Proposed change of use from former use class D1 artists studio/centre to rural enterprise centre with work hub offices and hot desk facilities, together with external alterations including replacement roof. **APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.**

178/20 COMMUNICATIONS

a. Lyn Work Hub

A letter was received from the Church Secretary of United Reformed Church, Lynton regarding the possible use of the premises as a work hub.

b. Devon County Council

Have sent through consultation on a draft order to formalise the prohibition of vehicles over 10 tonnes from using the cliff railway bridge on North Walk.

Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to speak.

County Councillor Davis responded to LLTC's concerns over access to the properties on North Walk. As a Fire appliance weighs in excess of 12 tonnes, this would pose a problem for these properties in the event of an emergency. Councillor Davis said that any concerns would be looked at by the legal team at County Hall.

Chairman reinstated Standing Orders.

It was

RESOLVED

Town Clerk would write in reply to the consultation, expressing Council's concerns how this limit may endanger properties due to the 10 tonne limit.

It is to be noted Councillor Rodway abstained from voting as the Cliff Railway is his employer.

c. Supreme Court Decision on Business Interruption Insurance Claims

A high court ruling has confirmed our insurer policies do not provide cover for business interruption in relation to the Covid-19 outbreak.

d. Inspection of Local Aids to Navigation – Trinity House

The inspector will be visiting Lynmouth Harbour on 22 February 2021.

179/20 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED

That open reports of the following committees, having been circulated, be noted and recommendations contained therein adopted.

Estates and Amenities Committee

13 January 2021

Minutes 151/20-157/20

Re: 155/20, c. The recommendation should have read " We would like to see more screening on the eastern boundary of the tennis courts as the site is visible from Hollerday Hill and the Valley of Rocks"

Policy and Finance Committee

20 January 2021

Minutes 158/20 – 166/20

180/20 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were none.

181/20 MOTIONS:

There were no motions received.

182/20 NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Councillor Patrinos reported the Covid Business Support Grants have been sorted out and they can now be applied for via the District Council website.

He also reported that District Council is not suffering too much due to Covid at present although this can change in an instant.

The Openreach project is ongoing and should be completed Autumn/Winter 21/22.

Questions

Councillor Hobbs wondered whether the Openreach banners could come down now.

183/20 DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Davis talked to her report, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Questions

Councillor Pearce asked about streetlights by Town Hall and Cross Street, they are still not working.

Councillor Rodway asked how many infections have been reported in our area. There are 5, which is down from 12 and also includes Combe Martin area.

Councillor Harding asked whether there would be 24 hr vaccinations. There will not be at present as there is a supply issue.

Councillor Sleep asked about the resurfacing of Watersmeet road. DCC is still in talks with the Contractor.

184/20 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk updated Members on the activity of the Lyn Valley Community Food Bank:

Since Lockdown 1 up to the end December, they have provided a total of 3,276 meals.

With lockdown 3, Government are not sending out food parcels to the vulnerable told to isolate, therefore Food Bank may have to step in, although no requests as yet.

Volunteers – The sharp increase of people with Covid symptoms has had repercussions. Firstly, some of these people are primary carers for their parents, this has caused a short term problem for volunteers to try and provide temporary care for elders in the community whilst the professional community care packages are put together. Secondly, many older members of community are much more reluctant to go to the shops so we may need to step in in the short term. So far we are managing well with the volunteers we have in place.

Transport - We have seen a big increase in numbers of vulnerable people needing to get to hospital for appointments for pre meds, operations, procedures and Covid testing before scheduled operations etc. Many are now needing chiropodist, dentist, chiropractor appointments as they haven't had help or treatment since first lockdown began.

Understandably vulnerable people are not willing to risk public transport and can't afford Taxi's even at a discounted rate as it is at least a 40 mile round trip with either waiting time on top or a second trip for pick up.

We have 500 people in the community over 70, all of whom, are being encourage to have vaccinations, we estimate about 100 of these will request assistance with transport.

In the period between 20th to 28th January we have transported 8 people for vaccinations (315.2 miles @.45p/mile) at a cost of £141.84 and 11 people to hospital appointments (391.6 miles @.45p/mile) at a cost of £176.22. A total cost of £318.06.

Clearly the people who have had their first jab will need another visit for their second. As they have all had the Pfizer product they will not be able to have this at our local health centre.

Town Clerk will apply to Devon County Council Grant funds for assistance with transport costs and additional food supplies.

The Car Park working group met 25 January on Zoom and a paper will be submitted to Estates and Amenities Committee (February) regarding a number of the actions identified by the working group.

As it is not clear yet whether remote meetings can continue after May's deadline, LLTC will hold their AGM and Full Council on Wednesday 5 May, remotely. However if regulations continue, then this date will revert to the usual last Thursday of Month.

It has been established that the flooding at the top of Holman Park is not the responsibility of Environment Agency or South West Water. Town Clerk continues to investigate albeit this may fall to the individual landowners to resolve.

Questions

Councillor Patrinos asked about the Lynmouth May Bridge ownership issue. Town Clerk advised it was Devon County Council who commissioned the recent safety survey.

185/20 QUESTIONS

Councillor Sleep raised the issue of affordable housing. As the pig fields have sold and due to covenants the Tennis Courts/Bowling Club complex are not approved, is this still seen as an issue for LLTC? This is still seen as a vital issue.

Meeting closed at 21.00

Chairman