

LYTCHETT MINSTER & UPTON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** was held on **TUESDAY** the **24 JANUARY 2023** which commenced at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

- Councillor R Griffin (in the Chair)
- Councillor Mrs M Pryor (Mayor)
- Councillor S McKell
- Councillor Mrs K Austin
- Councillor P Thompson
- Councillor R Burns
- Councillor D Wilson
- Councillor C Evans

Also in attendance: Mrs K Cane, Town Clerk
Mrs K Osborne, Deputy Town Clerk

278/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no declarations of interest received. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Chase (ill-health), and Cllr F H Drane (ill-health).

279/22 CLERKS REPORT:

- a) **Minute 398/18 Provision of a municipal water fountain.** The water samples that Wessex Water have taken are now clear, but the facility will need to be retested when it is open in the Spring. In the interim a maintenance and testing protocol will be written. The Outside Operations Manager will meet with the plumber on site for the purpose of inducting him into its maintenance and operation. More suitable covers are being sourced, and then an updated notice will be added to advise residents of the revised availability of this facility. There has been an issue with the plumbing due to the frozen conditions, and this has been repaired and the OOM is looking into adding further protective installation.
- b) **Minute 399/18 and 68/22 Parking Around Schools.** See Minute No 281/23.
- c) **Minute 450/19 Speed Indicator Device (SID).** The site at Poole Road which Council supported subsequently was not able to be used due to the significant amount of utilities there. The SID will be re-sited at the original location near the farm, Poole Road and Dorset Council has agreed to trial a strong perspex cover over the display to protect it from vandalism, as previously occurred.
- d) **Minute 64/22 Council's Strategy and Actions in Response to Climate Emergency.** Dorset Council yet to be contacted for information and advice on climate change initiatives.
- e) **Minute 171/22 Trailway Improvement Heritage Project.** A site meeting took place in December 2022 and quotes are being obtained for interpretation boards.
- f) **Minute 175/22 Traffic Pollution in the Town:** See Minute No 283/23
- g) **Minute 176/177/178 Highway Matters.** See Minute No 242/22.

- h) **179/22 Dropped Kerbs.** Only one request has been made regarding Ballam Close but Dorset Council have investigated and deemed not possible.

280/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Both items of correspondence were noted. Further Cllr Griffin advised that a letter of thanks be sent to the resident for his considerable work regarding environment ideas and suggestions. He will be advised that some matters will be referred to the next Highways Meetings, and that some will be restrained by finances.

281/23 TO DISCUSS THE 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

The Committee discussed whether or not it felt that the Town would benefit from the introduction of any 20 mph speed limits. After discussion, it was felt that when there were high volumes of traffic, particularly around schools, that vehicles would be unlikely to be driving in excess of 20 mph anyway. It was concluded that at this time the Town would not benefit from this scheme.

It was requested during this agenda item that a more visible 30 mph sign be installed just off the Bakers Arms roundabout to alert drivers passing through Lytchett Minster Village. It was noted that whilst the SID makes a big impact, when it is not there, drivers do travel at speeds in excess of 30 mph and current signage is felt to be inadequate. This will be discussed at the Highways meeting.

282/23 TO DISCUSS THE FLOODING ISSUES AT THE BAKER'S ARMS

Members agreed that there have been many episodes of significant flooding at this location, which has very high traffic volumes. Any disruption to this area, especially when the A35 is shut, as has happened recently, causes a massive impact for the town in terms of traffic volume, disruption and associated pollution levels. It was agreed that this matter be discussed further at the Highways meeting, where this Council would push for a review of the area to improve this situation.

283/23 TO DISCUSS POLLUTION IN UPTON

Members received the information and data on pollution in the Town from Dorset Council which identified that national levels were not exceeded.

It was felt that there may be some self-help actions that the Town Council could take, such as plants that absorb pollutants and tree and hedge planting. These matters will be investigated further and discussed at the next meeting.

284/23 TO RECEIVE THE LATEST FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE:

The report was received and accepted.

285/22 ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

The following items were raised:

1. Overgrown trees on Dorchester Road which closely overhang the seat. This would be investigated further.

2. Parking issues and destruction of grass verge along the strip of land near 126-128 Dorchester Road. This will be referred to the Community Highways Officer.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.54pm.

Chair.....

Date.....