

LPC Statement

1. Firstly, the LPC wish to praise the current VHMC for all their efforts in managing Lympstone Village Hall on behalf of the people of Lympstone.
2. We endorse their proposal to becoming a CIO as the Trustees of such a charity are not liable for their decisions or lack of oversight in the event of mismanagement, fraud or embezzlement. Note also that a CIO does not need to own the property they manage. Many CIOs are operating successfully without owning any property.
3. We also need to clear up some misunderstandings in documents recently produced by VHMC
 - a. The VHMC does not, indeed cannot, own any assets and therefore does not own the Village Hall or the land.
 - b. Indeed, it should not have been included in the VHMC accounts as an “asset”
 - c. The Village Hall is owned by the people of Lympstone and Title is held by LPC as Permanent, not Custodian, Trustee, on the behalf of Parishioners of Lympstone not VHMC
4. The land was donated to the People of the Parish in 1930.
 - a. From that day, title was held by NCSS as Permanent Trustee on behalf of the Parishioners of Lympstone.
 - b. A Council made up of representatives of local groups was formed to manage the proposed Hall project.
 - c. The original village hall was built and building donated to the Parishioners of Lympstone by Robert Garmondsway Wrightson in 1933.
5. 1977 title was passed from the NCSS to the LPC to hold as Permanent Trustee to hold on behalf of the people of Lympstone
6. The Village Hall Council became the charity now known as the VHMC. The word “management” in their name gives a clue to their role.
7. Over the years the LPC and the VHMC have worked closely together, often with the same people involved in the management of both bodies where some of these misconceptions may have arisen.
8. LPC is a publicly elected body subject to statute. Any Parishioner can stand to be elected as a Councillor and as councillors we can be held accountable for our decisions and actions, especially the disposal of any title held by LPC as this requires the consent of a clear majority of those residents who are eligible to Vote.

9. The new CIO will be a Private body answerable only to the Charity Commission (who are still working out how this relationship should be managed) run by Qualifying, as defined by the CIO, Trustees and these Trustees have no liability for the actions. The People of Lympstone's only right of control is the election of these qualifying Trustees. They have no rights or control and they cannot vote on any actions proposed or taken by the CIO.
10. CIO will have the right to retain or sell property, subject to the minimal control of the Charity Commission without reference to any other body or person. Indeed, this is Not Allowed by the Charity Commission who wanted to give CIO's a totally free hand to operate how they wished.
11. The CIO's proposed constitution allows it to:
 - a. Borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of the money borrowed.
 - b. The CIO can sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the CIO just by giving notice of its intention to do so.
12. Therefore, LPC will retain Public title to the Village Hall and land on behalf of the people of Lympstone; a situation that has worked well for nearly 90 years.
13. If the VHMC persist in their demand, the LPC will hold a public meeting for the Parishioners to attend to vote on a proposal for a potential survey of all the electorate on a change in title.
14. However, to dispose of any Public Title, the LPC is required to receive signed affidavits or equivalent from more than 50% of the electoral population of Lympstone requesting the LPC to do so. A donation of title to a Council is meant to be in perpetuity.
15. We repeat, unless the LPC is in receipt of clear documented instructions from the people of Lympstone to do otherwise, your LPC will continue to retain public Title as your Councillors cannot just vote to pass Title into the Private Ownership of any organisation or charity however well meaning.