

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 3RD MARCH 2008 AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors:-
J Whipps (Mayor)
S Sutton
K Harper
M Hardy
P Stott
I Stewart
B Walker
P Graham
D Nicholas
T Cope
E Wragg (until 8:15pm)
M Mitchell
R Turner
D Chapman
S Wragg
M Williamson
V Duval-Steer

Apologies:

Councillors. M Chapman, J Mitchell, J Humphreys, J Taylor, B Taylor, Lynn Elson and S Gazzard

Note: The Mayor then adjourned the meeting to allow public questions.

Public Question Time

There were no questions from the Public.

The Mayor then reconvened the Council meeting.

72. Fairtrade

A presentation given by representative of 'Fairtrade' from Uganda, Martin Odoch, was received by the Council. Martin described how the Mpanda Growers Tea Factory Co Ltd in Uganda, a group of small-holder farmers had received welcome support and assistance from Fairtrade, and what a difference it had made to the community.

The Councillors agreed that they would like to see Exmouth designated a Free-trade town. The Town Clerk reminded the meeting of the resolution made by the Town Council on 3rd July 2006 follows:

'That the Town Manager, once appointed, be requested to pursue the designation of Exmouth as a Fairtrade town'.

It was NOTED that supporters of 'Fairtrade' were in the public gallery and if they were happy to pursue this designation then they could contact the Town Clerk with a view to the application for designation being made.

73. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

74. Urgent Business

a) Licensing Application – Q Club

An application had been submitted for a new premises licence for the Q Club, Exmouth, to include a VIP lounge, which would be part of the snooker club area, and which would include adult entertainment such as lap or pole dancing and striptease. Public consultation for this application ends on 13th March 2008, and if no objections were received by the EDDC Licensing Committee, the application would automatically be approved.

Objections could only be made from local residents, or from businesses located nearby. The Town Council had no statutory right to object. Valid objections would be based upon the criteria that it would cause crime and disorder, a public nuisance, affect public safety and/or on the grounds of protection of children from harm.

Any Councillors wishing to object should do so individually by writing to the EDDC Licensing Officer.

75. Questions under Standing Order 32

Councillor Trevor Cope asked the following question:-

‘The previous Liberal Democrat controlled Exmouth Town Council conserved allotment land held in public ownership for the people of Exmouth. Currently, EDDC policy appears to be in favour of disposing of publicly owned land and assets. Will this Exmouth Town Council, with its Conservative majority, give a reassurance and commitment that allotment land in the ownership of the present Exmouth Town Council will not fall to housing development.’

It was NOTED that any sale of allotment land needed to be subject to Secretary of State approval and had to pass stringent tests. There were no specific requests other than two small pieces of land which had not been used as allotments for many years. The ‘Green Lung’ qualities and importance of allotments were recognised.

76. Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no items to be dealt with necessitating exclusion of the press and public.

77. Minutes of the Planning Committee

Councillor B Walker seconded by Councillor R Turner moved the acceptance of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of the 21st January, 4th and 18th February 2008. Arising from this evening’s Planning Committee it was noted that responses to the Sustainability Proposal for the East Devon Local Development Framework were required by 14th March 2008. This was a very complex and technical document, of vital importance to Exmouth, that warranted further explanation and a thorough inspection.

RESOLVED that

- a) the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings referred to above be received,**
- b) that the Town Clerk be requested to invite an officer from EDDC Development Control to guide the Town Council, or a representative committee, through the Sustainability Proposal in order that they may give a reasoned response to this important document.**

78. Minutes of the General Purposes Committee

Councillor P Stott seconded by Councillor M Williamson moved the acceptance of the minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting of the 4th February 2008 and to adopt the recommendations made therein (GP-Min G61 and G62).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting referred to above be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

79. Minutes of the Finance Committee

Councillor S Sutton seconded by Councillor T Cope moved the acceptance of the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of the 18th February 2008 and to adopt the recommendations contained therein.

Arising thereon:

Exe Estuary Trail (Fin-Min F58) It was requested that the minutes be amended to include the offer made by Councillor B Taylor to make up any shortfall in the cost of purchasing a town information panel for the Trail from her DCC budget.

Also there was a need to add declarations of interest in respect of other minutes. These amendments would be brought before the Finance Committee to amend the minutes when adopting them at its next meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting referred to above be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted subject to the above amendments.

80. Reports from other Councils

The EDDC council precept for next year would be the third lowest in the country;

Vanguard Consultants had been employed by EDDC to review the planning application process within Development Control and make recommendations for improvement that could be made to minimize the number of cases going to appeal.

Devon County Council have purchased land at J29 of the M5 for access to Cranbrook.

The meeting concluded at 8:35 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....