

## EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: S Sutton (Mayor)  
J Humphreys (Deputy Mayor)  
B Cole T Cope  
D Chapman M Chapman  
T Dumper V Duval-Steer  
L Elson S Gazzard  
P Graham A Greenhalgh  
J Mitchell M Mitchell  
W McConnell B Nash  
C Nicholas I Stewart  
B Taylor J Taylor  
R Turner M Williamson  
E Wragg S Wragg

**GUESTS:** Jamie Buckley, EDDC Community Engagement Officer

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#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time.

Mr Ian Cann, Secretary of Exmouth Civic Society, asked if the Council had a response to the Strand General Policy Document that had been prepared by the society now that the Strand had been in operation for ten months. The previous Mayor had been aware of the content of the policy but it had not been circulated to members present at tonight's meeting. An assurance was given that the policy document would be placed as an agenda item at a future Regeneration and General Purposes meeting.

Mr Jeff Trail, Brixington and Bystock Action Group, wished to thank the Town Council for taking the time to review his question relating to young people being invited to attend Council meetings. The request was for a person to champion young people and families. From the response of the General Purpose Committee meeting it was clear that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had been in favour of his question and noted that the Deputy Mayor could have been the champion required.

In response to current LDF proposals he and the people of Brixington & Bystock appreciated the dilemma and difficulty of the proposed Local Plan but suggested inclusion of the area of St Johns Wood, as a development in some shape or form, be only as a very very last resort. It had been agreed that some housing was required within the Town but allowing development to creep towards the Common could set a precedent and we would lose the green lung which supported tourism and the beauty of our Town. He asked the Town Council to unite on this front and set aside political differences for the sake of the Town and the people within it.

Mr Ron Roberts stated that the Government's Localism Bill proposed new provisions on local referendums. He asked if Exmouth Town Council would support a future request for a referendum under new legislation. This question was noted as any decisions would pertain to the facts at the time.

Mr Geoff Morris, Exmouth Residents Association, gave a visual presentation on 'Traffic in Rolle Street'. The video focused on the bottom section of Rolle Street, in particular the bus stop outside the cinema. He explained the Association's concerns about the road layout. He requested that a small group be formed to prepare a report on the situation for pedestrians and transport in that area.

Councillor E Wragg stated that there had been several meetings with Devon County Highways Officers who were aware of issues that had evolved since completion of the Strand.

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**Note:** The Mayor then reconvened the Council meeting.

## **28. APOLOGIES**

Councillor P Stott.

## **29. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 were received and signed as a correct record.

## **30. URGENT BUSINESS**

### **Local Development Framework (Local Plan)**

The Council had before it the report of the Town Clerk following his attendance with Councillor Lynne Elson at East Devon District Council's Local Development Framework Meeting (previously circulated). The key issue that had to be faced was how many houses would the Council consider acceptable for inclusion in the Local Plan for the next 15 years. Government policy required housing development to meet housing need and the choice was really to identify the least worst options for the town.

The Town Clerk had included recommendations in the report to enable the whole Council to make a decision on this matter through the LDF Task and Finish Forum.

**'Councillor Turner proposed seconded by Councillor Greenhalgh that recommendations (b) and (c) in the report be adopted'.**

On a vote being taken this proposition was declared lost.

Recommendation (d) automatically fell as it was tied to recommendations (b) and (c).

Consideration was then given to Recommendations (e) and (f).

Councillor Steve Wragg then explained why there were good planning reasons not to put forward the St John's Road land for development. The St. Johns Road site, in particular, with 1,000 proposed dwellings, is situated some 500 metres from the Dinan Way, via St. Johns Road, which is a country lane. The site is surrounded to the north & east by open countryside and by dense woodland to the west. Although a hamlet comprising of a small number of dwellings is situated to the south of the site, many are former agricultural buildings which were converted many years ago. The principle of this type of development would not be considered sustainable today. The St. Johns Road site would have large cost implications, in order to deliver the footpath & highway infrastructure which would be required, just to make the site accessible. The result of such costs would greatly reduce the viability of the scheme and the residual value of any development,

resulting in a small percentage of affordable homes being delivered. The development would have serious habitat implications, with the loss of many trees, hedges and associated wildlife.

Councillor Steve Wragg proposed, seconded by Councillor Trevor Cope:-

**‘That for the reasons above, Exmouth Town Council does not accept the principle of development of the St. Johns Road site’.**

On a vote being taken the proposition was declared **CARRIED**

Consideration was then given to the question of other sites which might be considered for development within the period of the plan, namely Littleham and Goodmoores Farm sites.

Councillor Steve Wragg proposed, seconded by Councillor Trevor Cope:-

**‘That the question be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and the ward members for Littleham and Brixington to provide a response to East Devon District Council with a deadline of noon on 22<sup>nd</sup> September’.**

On a vote being taken the proposition was declared **CARRIED**

### **31. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10**

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

### **32. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items on the agenda to be dealt with necessitating exclusion of the press and public as Agenda item 11 had been delayed and item 12 was to note only.

### **33. EXMOUTH SPORTS MONEY – PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**

A report was circulated to members which gave details of how £250,000 of Section 106 funding from developments in Exmouth should be spent which followed consultation with residents of Exmouth. The £100,000 set aside for a longer-term project had been allocated to the Valley Parks Cycle Route as it had received 70% of the votes. Other short term projects that would be created were the outdoor gym, ‘continental style’ open air showers and the improvement of Exmouth Skate Park which would cost £100,000. The fourth identified short term project had been the redevelopment of the tennis courts in Phear Park but the remainder £50,000 did not meet the required £75,000 needed. LED had since pledged the remainder of the funding should the Town Council be supportive of this. Members gave their support.

Councillors gave their appreciation to Jamie for her time, effort and enthusiasm throughout the consultation process. Questions were asked as to maintenance and ongoing running costs of some of the projects. There had been 47% of public support for the consultation process and a request was made for reference to be made to that fact in the next Town Council newsletter. Jamie requested that the Chairman of the Skate Park be invited to a Council meeting and that steering groups be created to oversee the projects and to include the people who had put forward the schemes and she would be happy to be part of the groups.

#### **RESOLVED that**

- a) the longer term project, the Valley Parks Cycle Route be supported;**

- b) **the most popular community schemes successful in the vote – namely the outdoor gym, ‘Continental style’ open air showers, the improvement of Exmouth Skate Park and money towards the redevelopment of the tennis courts at Phear Park be supported;**
- c) **the Town Clerk identify the next steps with Jamie and report back to Regeneration and General Purposes Committee.**

**Note:** Councillor T Cope declared a personal interest as his son worked for LED.

**34. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Councillor B Nash, seconded by Councillor T Dumper moved the acceptance of the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July, and 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011 (as previously circulated).

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July, and 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011 be received.**

**35. MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Councillor M Chapman, seconded by Councillor R Turner moved that the minutes of the Regeneration General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be received.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011 be received and the recommendation contained therein adopted.**

**36. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Councillor R Turner, seconded by Councillor V Duval-Steer moved that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 be received.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 be received.**

**37. REPORTS FROM LOCAL BODIES AND THE TOWN CLERK AS APPROPRIATE**

- The final stage of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race would take place in Exmouth on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September and road closures would take place
- Councillors at Devon County Council had shown concern at the content of the Draft National Planning Policy Framework document – the Town Council had identified a small group of councillors who would work on feedback to the document. The RIT&P had written to National newspapers
- Books received as gifts from French visitors to be placed in Exmouth’s Library reference section

The meeting concluded at 9.07 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....  
(Chairman)