

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors: D Nicholas (Mayor)
S Sutton (Deputy Mayor)
D Chapman M Chapman
T Cope V Duval-Steer
L Elson S Gazzard
P Graham K Harper
J Humphreys J Mitchell
M Mitchell I Stewart
P Stott B Taylor
J Taylor J Whipps
M Williamson E Wragg
S Wragg

SPEAKER: Mike Cox, Exmouth Open Door Centre

28. APOLOGIES

Councillors M Hardy, R Turner & B Walker

29. PRESENTATION BY MIKE COX, OPEN DOOR CENTRE

Mike Cox, Project Leader of Nightshift, gave a presentation on some of the projects that the Open Door Centre were currently engaged in. There was a cafe/drop in centre for the homeless and unemployed, a child contact centre which provided a safe environment on Saturdays for children to meet estranged parents, the Christian Education project and the Nightshift project.

The Nightshift project was a Christian project with 750 volunteer hours (relates to approx £53,000) per month with a cafe based at the Methodist Church and supported by local churches, CCTV, local Police, Paramedics, establishment door staff, taxi drivers etc with the aim of supporting people on the streets in need of help and assistance. The project to date had run for three and half years and had provided 1,000 nights cover with a cost of £140,000 per annum mainly funded by grants, donations and fundraising events. Nightshift had in June gained a merit award from East and Mid Devon Partnership for their outstanding duty towards curbing anti social behaviour (down 22%) in the town centre and making Exmouth a safer place.

The ICE project had this summer run 'We Love Littleham' which involved 39 young people aged 11 -16 who had volunteered to work closely with residents to carry out tasks such as weeding, planting, cleaning, tidying, small repairs and painting to help make a difference to the community.

The Mayor thanked Mike Cox for his inspirational presentation starting the new season of the Council in such a positive way and thanked the organisation for its good work in the community.

30. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on the 28th June 2010 were received and signed as a correct record.

31. URGENT BUSINESS

There were two items of urgent business.

- (i) Ian Stuart, Stuart Line Cruises, had been recently diagnosed with a serious illness. A card was distributed to members for messages to be written wishing him a speedy recovery.
- (ii) Cllr. B Taylor reported that a proposal had been discussed at EDDC Executive Committee to dispose of a strip of land given to them by DCC, originally an agricultural access path, which linked St. John's Road through Withycombe Valley to Dinan Way. The route had been identified in the Local Plan and LDF as part of the new cycleway, Valley Park and a safer route to school. Exmouth Town Council had not been consulted on the proposal and it was proposed that this be put on as an item for consideration at the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee to be held on 20th September with supporting paperwork attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED that

- (a) **the proposal to dispose of land in the Withycombe Valley by EDDC be placed as an agenda item for discussion at Regeneration and General Purposes Committee to be held on 20th September 2010.**
- (b) **all relevant papers be circulated to the Regeneration and General Purposes Councillors.**

32. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

33. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

34. LOCAL REFERENDUMS TO VETO EXCESSIVE COUNCIL TAX INCREASES

Members considered the content of a previously circulated consultation document from the Department of Communities and Local Government 'Local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases' and the proposal that, from next financial year, any "excessive" council tax increase by precepting authorities (including local parish and town councils in England) must be supported by a majority positive vote in a referendum. This document was considered of major importance but the consultation period had been reduced from the usual 12 weeks to 6 weeks over the Summer recess.

The SLCC with the National association of Local Councils had given their response. They stated that referendums were not the most suitable form of confirming community support for the expenditure of local councils as the expenditure incurred to hold them could be greater than the proposed council tax increase. If the referendum scheme was to be applied to local councils this could severely constrain their ability to support local community action and their response to community needs. Both Political Groups had provided their written responses to the consultation which had previously been circulated.

It was considered difficult to respond as key information as to what the ‘Principles’ for determining the need for a referendum were not revealed. It was suggested that other mechanisms were in place to obtain a view from the community on the acceptability of an increase in the precept which would be less costly and bureaucratic to administer.

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor P Stott,

“that a Referendum Mechanism be not supported and that a Town Meeting consultation on significant Council Tax increases as described in part 5 of the SLCC report would be sufficient and proportionate in terms of cost and that the Town Clerk be requested to write a response taking into account the Council’s views to be circulated to all Councillors for any further input before sending, with copies, to other bodies including the M.P”.

Councillor S Gazzard, leader of the Liberal Democrats, requested a five minute adjournment to consult with his party which was granted.

A recorded vote was requested on the motion in accordance with Standing Orders.

On a vote being taken the Motion was declared ACCEPTED.

Note: The vote was recorded as follows:-

FOR

M Chapman
D Chapman
T Cope
V Duval-Steer
L Elson
K Harper
J Humphries
D Nicholas
P Stott
S Sutton
J Whipps
M Williamson

AGAINST

S Gazzard
P Graham
J Mitchell
M Mitchell
I Stewart
B Taylor
J Taylor
E Wragg
S Wragg

35. MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

A letter had been received from the Head of Libraries at Devon County Council which informed the Town Council of changes that would be introduced in January 2011 to improve the mobile library service in Devon. In order to meet longer stop times, some of the lowest use stops were being removed.

Councillor L Elson asked for reconsideration to reinstate the Lamplough Road stop and Councillor M Williamson the Rodney Close stop due to their distance from the town and that it served many elderly and disabled residents, some of whom might be unaware of the service and would benefit from a distribution of a leaflet or media publicity.

In response to DCC's request for feedback on encouraging the use of mobile libraries it was thought that if stops could be built into the route at local schools school children would be encouraged to use the facility.

RESOLVED that a letter of response be sent to request reinstatement of Lamplough Road and Rodney Close stops as they serve the elderly and disabled residents of those areas and request the mobile library provides leaflets and media coverage to promote the service.

36. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor L Elson, seconded by Councillor T Cope moved the acceptance of the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 28th June, 12th and 26th July and 9th and 23rd August 2010 (as previously circulated).

Councillor L Elson reported that there had recently been a number of planning applications that had been determined under Delegated Powers where no view had been made by the Town Council and the decision had been made before the application target date.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 28th June, 12th and 26th July and 9th and 23rd August 2010 be adopted.

37. MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor M Chapman, seconded by Councillor L Elson moved the acceptance of the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12th July 2010 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12th July 2010 be received.

38. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor J Whipps, seconded by Councillor M Williamson moved that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 26th July 2010 be received and the recommendation contained therein be adopted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 26th July 2010 be received.

39. REPORTS FROM OTHER LOCAL BODIES AND THE TOWN CLERK AND TOWN MANAGER AS APPROPRIATE

- Transfer of land by the Mamhead slipway to the Docks developer to enable sea defence works to be carried out had been called in for further discussion.
- Concern that responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the sea wall within the docks development would become the responsibility of local residents.
- Any transfer of beach land should include Exmouth Town Council as consultee.
- Covenants had recently been lifted on the seafront.
- Gateway Visitor Centre was now unlikely to go ahead at Mamhead.
- Exmouth Action Group had taken legal advice and confirmed that the owners of the Hush Smart Shop in the Strand were complying with the Law in their trading activities.

- Manor Gardens’ toilets could face an interim closure should recent incidents not be resolved.
- Police were aware of Anti- social behaviour that had taken place in the Colonies.
- Police would respond within 45 minutes to any incidents identified as of concern by PACT.
- Regeneration Board meeting scheduled for 3rd September had been cancelled but some members had not been informed causing personal difficulties.
- The AGM of CAB had taken place and CAB members wished to thank Exmouth Town Council and its members for their support and new referrals would be welcome.
- TAFF reported that sheltered housing units would now be supported by floating housing support workers as opposed to accommodation based support wardens.
- EDDC Rationalisation Panel Committee would meet on the 13th & 28th September.
- DCC would invest in improved interpretation at Orcombe Point.
- Littleham PACT group had applied for restricted parking around Littleham shops and the car park to reduce car that park all day and would also enforce illegal parking on double yellow lines particularly at the triangle.
- Sgt Andy Squires would be back in Exmouth responsible for the Police Response Team.

The meeting concluded at 8.43 p.m.

Signed

Date

(Chairman)