

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2011 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 M Hardy
K Harper J Humphreys
J Mitchell M Mitchell
I Stewart P Stott
B Taylor J Taylor
J Whipps M Williamson
E Wragg S Wragg

APOLOGIES: Councillor R Turner

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time.

Jeff Trail, Brixington and Bystock Action Group asked the Committee whether it was correct and fair to apply political balance if this would disadvantage independent Councillors.

Jane Chubb, resident of Summer Lane, Exmouth, asked for consideration be given to preventing large campervans parking across more than one space for long periods on Queens Drive. Whilst taking up more than one parking space, sacks of rubbish were often left behind on departure.

Councillors recognised this as an ongoing matter of concern. It was felt that the provision of specific campervan parking could be provided in off-street car parking with some facilities.

Councillor M Williamson made a commitment to take this up at East Devon district Council with a view to finding solutions jointly with Devon County Council to this ongoing concern.

Note: The Mayor then reconvened the Council meeting

73. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on the 24th January 2011 were received and signed as a correct record.

74. URGENT BUSINESS

There were four items considered to be of urgent business under Standing Order 6.2.

(1) Imperial Recreation Ground

A consultation document had been received today in respect of the Imperial Ground and proposed work to investigate pollution. This would be raised at the next meeting of the Regeneration & General Purposes Committee.

(2) Seafront Festoon Lights

It was reported that prices had been received from suppliers for completion of the conversion of the festoon lights on the seafront to LED's. They would be brighter and more long lasting than conventional lighting and lower energy. Budget provision could be assembled to complete the conversion within budgets set for 2010/11. The lowest price was from the Roger Ugalde electrical contractors in the sum of £27,000.

RESOLVED that the conversion of the seafront festoon lights to LED be completed before Easter and the contract be awarded to Roger Ugalde in the sum of £27,000.

(3) The Strand

Councillor Ian Stewart raised issues concerning the Strand re. B Natural loading for customers and disabled parking.

Councillor Eileen Wragg confirmed that these were all issues easily dealt with and would raise with the Highways Engineer.

(4) Poll Cards

RESOLVED that separate poll cards for Town election be not requested as long as signs from former polling stations were provided.

75. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

Cllr. S Gazzard asked the following question of the Mayor:-

It had been reported in the press that two Councillors had recently been disqualified and was this the case.

The Town Clerk made reference to the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 which stated '..... if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.'

This applied in both cases and did not disqualify the former Councillors from being Councillors in the future if duly elected.

76. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

77. NOTICE OF MOTION – No 2/2011

The Council had before it a motion proposed by Councillor S Wragg and seconded by Councillor S Gazzard, as follows:-

‘In May 2010 the ruling Conservative group on Exmouth Town Council forced political balance in respect of the appointment of members to Standing Committees.

This decision, unprecedented in this Town Council’s history has, and will continue, to disenfranchise independent Councillors and members of minority groups elected by the public.

Whilst acknowledging that political balance applies on District and County Councils the Liberal Democrat group can see no purpose for this divisive practice at the Town Hall.

I move that Exmouth Town Council ends the appointments to Standing Committees on the basis of political balance and that future Standing Committees be allocated by member preference’.

A full debate took place and on a vote being taken the Motion was declared **LOST**.

78. 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 24th January, 7th and 21st February 2011 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 24th January, 7th and 21st February 2011 be accepted.

79. MINUTES OF THE REGENERATION AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor P Stott, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, moved the acceptance of the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7th February 2011. It was NOTED that various actions remained to be dealt with.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7th February 2011 be accepted.

80. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor J Whipps, seconded by Councillor V Duval-Steer, moved that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 21st February 2011 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 21st February 2011 be accepted.

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

- £400,000 funding had been approved by Devon County Council to provide the Interpretation Centre at Orcombe Point – Bright 3D would give presentations in the near future.
- Cycle paths along the seafront were presently being altered to overcome objections
- Devon Sea Fisheries would be joining South West Inshore Fisheries Committee in April 2011.
- DCC were reducing top Management posts. The Director of CYPS was taking early retirement.
- Illegal parking penalties in parts of the Town, in particular Manchester Street, were under discussion.
- The new implementation of on street parking zones was on hold as a result of pressure by other Towns.
- Economy and Scrutiny Committee had reported that Bicton College would require new Post 16 facilities which would include accommodation blocks when the current Yr8 finished Yr11.
- Town Clerk would circulate the report as a result of the Snow Warden Seminar held at the Honiton Business Centre on 14th February 2011 which had also been attended by Councillors Steve Gazzard and John Taylor.
- An experimental traffic order would be put in place along Moorfield Road to assist with bus movement.
- Grit bins could be bought for £300.
- Members of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers announced that Exmouth Community College would become an Academy School in April and wished Tony Alexander a speedy recovery.
- No Exmouth primary schools had yet gained Academy status although some were in the process of applying.
- Refuse issues in the Colonies had been addressed.
- Changes that would take place to the functions of EDDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee were reported.
- The Police and Responsibility Bill would affect licensing and the role of Parishes
- East Devon had built 17 houses this year but there were 2,700 people still on the waiting list.
- Town Clerk's report which followed his attendance at a conference at Tiverton on 17th February 2011 on 'Empowering Communities - The New Localism' had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

As this was the last meeting of the Council prior to the election the Mayor thanked his fellow members for their hard work and commitment over the last four years. He also thanked the Town Clerk and the staff for their hard work and dedication. He has greatly enjoyed the position of Mayor and was proud of the achievements of the Council for the Town of Exmouth.

The meeting concluded at 8.31 pm

Signed
(Chairman)

Date