

# EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2011 AT 7.00PM

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillors:	R Turner	(Chairman)
		D Chapman	B Nash
		B Cole	J Mitchell
		T Cope	M Mitchell
		T Dumper	P Stott
		V Duval-Steer	S Sutton
		L Elson	B Taylor
		P Graham	M Williamson
		A Greenhalgh	E Wragg
		J Humphreys	S Wragg

**APOLOGIES:** None

### **F12 INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman apologised that the previous meeting had been difficult and said that he would endeavour to do better.

### **F13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 were approved and signed as a correct record subject to amendments which were shown in italics in the minutes and the hand written amendments which were agreed at the meeting.

### **F14 URGENT BUSINESS TOUR OF BRITAIN**

The Committee received the notes of the Tour of Britain meeting held on 26th July 2011. Anticipated cost to the Town Council would be:-

- Show of Hands booking £4k
- The Exmouth Shanty Men booking £500
- Bicycle Circus booking £2k or alternative acts as available.
- Prize giving £300

A budget of £3k was requested to cover these costs with intended pay back from projected surplus from the Show of Hands Concert.

The Committee are concerned by the lack of public conveniences and asked the Town Clerk to raise this issue at the next Tour of Britain Meeting asking for Porta Loos to be provided.

**RESOLVED that a budget of £3k from balances be set aside to cover the above costs as a guarantee but on the basis that break even is planned.**

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Committee received the notes of the meeting of the Christmas Lights Working Party meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011. Prior to this meeting the Committee felt that the Town Council could not continue to cover the cost of

the lights year after year when the majority of businesses in the town particularly retailers & evening economy businesses were not prepared to contribute.

**RESOLVED that the Town Council will promote the Christmas Cracker event in the Strand and provide a Christmas Tree in the Strand with lights but will not contribute towards Christmas Lights unless significant contributions are received from the private sector by mid September.**

**F15 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 the public and press be excluded in respect of item 6 on the Agenda relating to Exmouth Flowers, because it is not in the public interest to discuss in public as it relates to confidential information, concerning information which would be commercially sensitive affecting further negotiations with the District Council. The item to be moved to the end of the meeting.**

**F16 ROLLE EXMOUTH LTD**

Roger Staker –Director of Rolle Exmouth Ltd attended to bring the Committee up to date with the current situation at Rolle and to request the release of funds from the £30,000 set aside by the Council.

Roger explained that a 3year lease agreement had been agreed with the university and they were expecting to have access to the building in October. The Owen, Dawe and Administrative buildings had been moth balled and would need to be completely re-commissioned along with other repairs. It was expected that during the first 12 months, costs of repairs could reach £100k. Several companies have shown interest in leasing parts of the building. Once the lease had been signed it was expected that share options could be issued, sponsorship and fund raising, it was expected that £50k could be raised from direct revenue in the first year. Questions were asked about returns on shares. The board had yet to agree on this, but initial shares would be used for start up costs and refurbishment. It was hoped to have discussions with the Community College about the use of part of the accommodation. If there was a shortfall at the end of the 3 year period then a Commercial Loan might be considered. Many discussions and actions were needed but the Town Councils financial support would cover much needed start up costs.

**RESOLVED that authority be given to permit the use of the full £30k for Rolle Exmouth Ltd start up costs payment to be on approved invoices for services provided.**

**Notes:-**

John Wokersien declared a personal interest as a Director of Rolle Exmouth Ltd

**F17 COMMUNITY PLANNING**

The Regeneration and General Purposes Committee had requested (R & GP – Min G21 – 7/11) authority to commit expenditure to provide professional support towards appointing a steering group of volunteers to progress Community Planning. This would be subject to a specification being drawn up of services required. £4,000 was held in Earmarked Reserves although it would be expected not to spend the whole budget on this appointment. There would be budget implications for future years if progress was made. Links with the localised Bill & Neighbourhood plans were evident. Councillors were concerned to make sure that all the reports and work of the past were built into the plan to avoid duplication of works.

**RESOLVED to authorise expenditure on professional support for initiating the Community Plan process.**

**F18 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

To note the email from Jamie Buckley which may bring funding opportunities through the Big Lottery small grants fund accessible to Local Councils.

**F19 CRIME STOPPERS**

The Committee considered a request from Crimestoppers for financial assistance.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) **That a £100 contribution be authorised subject to seeing accounts and information on how many Exmouth residents have used this scheme.**
- (b) **Delegated powers given to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to make the contribution if the information proves to be satisfactory.**

**F20 GRANT REQUEST – RESPITE AND RECOVERY**

The Committee considered a request from Respite and Recovery that had been deferred from the last meeting for more information. It was agreed to give £500 and asked that the Town Clerk write to them to express the Committees appreciation on the work that they do.

**RESOLVED accordingly.**

**F21 LITTLEHAM FAMILY ACTIVITY CENTRE**

It was reported that a grant of £200 was approved for the Centre by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Chairman of this Committee following enquiries about the grant not now being required for a new fence. The money has been allocated to other projects required by the Centre so would be well used.

**RESOLVED to confirm the action taken.**

**F22 GRANTS – LETTERS OF THANKS**

- Relate
- Exmouth Amateurs Football Club  
(Previously circulated)

**NOTE:- The Public and Press were then excluded from the meeting**

**F23 EXMOUTH FLOWERS TASK AND FINISH FORUM**

The Committee discussed the notes of the meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> July (Previously circulated). The Current 3 year contract would finish this year and consideration was given to authorising invitation to tender for the next 3 years contract.

**RESOLVED that**

- (a) **the County Councillors be requested to contribute from their Community Funds if permitted;**
- (b) **authority be given to invite tenders for the flower towers contract for the next 3 years.**
- (c) **winter bedding be continued at Town Council expense subject to the reductions in Summer bedding put forward by the TAFF being adopted.**

**Note: TAFF notes attached to the signed minutes.**

The meeting closed at 8.59pm

**SIGNED.....**

**DATED.....**