

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY, 15th JUNE 2009 AT 7.30PM

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors D Nicholas and S Sutton

F1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th APRIL 2009

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record.

F2 URGENT BUSINESS

Request to Use the Town Logo – RMA Exmouth Branch

Consideration was given for a request to use the Town Crest by the RMA Exmouth Branch. It was accepted that this was for a voluntary local organisation operating from Exmouth and not for any commercial gain.

RESOLVED that the request be approved.

F3 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 Minute F10 below, because it is not in the public interest for the matters to be considered in public as they relate to matters relating to the Gibson Family which are of a confidential nature.

F4 NEW YEAR EVENT

A report had been prepared by the Town Manager showing costings for putting on an event to bring focus to the annual New Year celebrations within

Exmouth which attracts large numbers of people to the town each year. This would have a favourable benefit for the economy of the town and community and would supplement the Christmas Cracker Event. The proposal was for fireworks at midnight and provision of a band on the seafront providing a count-down to New Year linked to Big Ben.

RESOLVED that the idea of promoting a New Year Town Council/Town Management focus to New Year Celebrations be supported in Principle subject to some private sector sponsorship being obtained – details to be reported back to a future meeting.

F5 BAY FM

A letter dated 1st June 2009 from Ian McKenzie, Chair of Bay FM Steering Committee was considered by the Committee. Both moral and financial support was sought for this up and coming community radio station.

It was felt that any decision should be deferred until more information was available, including Statement of Accounts and a Business Plan, together with a presentation by the local radio station. It was also proposed that a strong letter of support on behalf of Bay FM be sent to Ofcom.

RESOLVED that

(a) a letter of support be sent to Ofcom;

(b) Bay FM be asked to make a presentation to the next meeting before an offer of grant is determined.

Note: – Personal Interests were declared by the Town Clerk and Councillors Joy Whipps and Eileen Wragg as members of the Bay FM Steering Committee. A Personal Interest was also declared by Councillor Steve Gazzard who knows many people who work for Bay FM.

F6 INSURANCE RENEWAL

The annual renewal of the Council Insurances with Norwich Union (AVIVA Ltd) was **CONFIRMED**. The insurance brokers WPS has obtained best value by obtaining quotes from other insurance companies and obtain bulk purchase arrangements for Town and Parish Councils.

F7 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2008/2009

The Committee considered the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2009, the following documents were before it: -

- i) Income and Expenditure Accounts
- ii) Balance Sheet
- iii) Supporting Statement
- iv) Earmarked Reserves as at 31st March 2009
- v) Annual Return for the Audit Commission for Council approval
- vi) Assets Register
- vii) Letter from Internal Auditor
- viii) Review of Independent Internal Audit 2008/2009
- ix) Statement of Internal Control
- x) Detailed Accounts – Pages for 2008/2009

Questions were asked on the detailed accounts and a request was made for more detailed on-going monitoring.

RECOMMENDATION that

- (a) **the annual accounts for 2008/2009 be adopted including the Annual Return to the Audit Commission and all of the documents listed above;**
- (b) **thanks be recorded to Julie Gregory, for her excellent “book keeping” over the year**
- (c) **detailed accounts be reviewed quarterly by a small sub-committee made up of the Chairman of the Committee and Councillors Lynne Elson, Ian Stewart and Trevor Cope.**

F8 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Council considered the first tranche of grants under the new system adopted by the Council. The Town Clerk presented a report which showed the amounts paid under Service Level Agreements, amounts applied for and that £5,550 was available for allocation under the first tranche after SLAs had been taken out.

RESOLVED that grants be allocated as follows:-

- Exmouth Eagles Youth Football Team £750
(Advise them that EDDC may also have money available arising from Humphreys Park)
- Archery – Individual Application £250
(To be paid from Exmouth Projects Trust)
(Prejudicial Interest declared by Councillor Pauline Stott as a member of the Management Committee of Exmouth Archers and she left the room)
- Exmouth Ice Project £500
(Personal Interest declared by Councillor Joy Whipps because of her involvement with the project)

Bassetts Farm Pre-School (Personal Interest declared by Councillors Trevor Cope and Jean Mitchell as School Governor interests)	£1,000
South West Brass Band Association	£350
Bay FM Radio – Deferred for consideration at next meeting after a presentation from Bay FM.	
River Exe Regatta	£500
(Personal Interest declared by Councillor Pauline Stott due to her daughter-in- law’s involvement with the Sailing Club)	
In a Heartbeat	£500

F9 FESTIVAL – PRELIMINARY REPORT

It was reported that a detailed report would be made to the next meeting but that due to the success of this year’s festival there ought to be funds to carry over to next year.

Note: The public and press were excluded at this point.

Confidential Minute for Audit Purposes and for the Record.

F10 Town Crier – Funeral

- (i) **Garth Gibson’s funeral – Friday 12th June 2009**
Confidential matters personal to the family were dealt with by the committee.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

SIGNED.....

DATED.....