

**EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY,  
17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2008 AT 6.45PM**

**PRESENT:**

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

**OBSERVER** Cllr R Turner (part of mtg)

**APOLOGY:** Cllr J Whipps

**F41 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were received as a correct record subject to the following corrections: -

- Minute F33 in the third paragraph on page 15 correct 'Seeing' to read 'Seeking';
- Minute F34 Page 18 add declaration of interest by Councillor T Cope as Personal Interest through school – Brixington Bloomers;
- Minute F38 under Declarations of Interest change 'Councillor M Williams to Councillor M Williamson'.

**F42 FLOWER TOWERS – THREE YEAR CONTRACT**

Tenders were invited for renewal of the three year contract for supplying flower towers and watering and maintaining them throughout the season. Adverts had been placed in the Journal and Express and Echo to seek contractors who might be interested in tendering. No new contractors had come forward as a result of this exercise. Existing contractors had performed well over the last three years providing services which had specific requirements in terms of resources available for storage and watering equipment.

**RESOLVED that**

- a) The contract for watering flower towers be renewed with David Tyrell in the sum of £9,063 for the next three years 2009, 2010 and 2011 with an RPI inflation factor being applied in the second and third years at the time of billing;**
- b) The contract for providing flowers and storage of flower towers be renewed with Lea Park Nurseries in the sum of £4,290 for the next three years 2009, 2010 and**

**2011 with an RPI inflation factor being applied in the second and third years at the time of billing.**

**Note:** Cllrs Stott and Graham both declared personal interests in this matter and took no part in the discussion. Councillor Stott as a friend of David Tyrell and Councillor Graham as Exmouth in Bloom Chairman.

**F43 BUDGET 2009/10**

The Committee had before it the report on the Draft Budget referred from the last meeting with the recommended budget for the year 2009/10.

The Town Clerk reported that the Council Tax Base had now been provided by East Devon District Council, which was £13,215 compared to £13,122 for last year.

A debate ensued about the propriety of putting forward any increase in budget this year in view of the severe international financial crises and the affect this would have on individuals in the year to come. Various amendments were put forward to the recommendation. It was considered that the Council could adopt a standstill budget but still continue with a project fund but on a smaller basis than included in the previous two years. Consideration was given to the amendment given to that effect.

It was also considered that finance from the previous year allocated to the project fund should be placed in an earmarked reserve for Capital Project Money so that this would be available as a contribution towards future regeneration projects such as The Strand.

**RECOMMENDED that**

- (a) the precept for the year 2008/9 be set at £315,600 equivalent to a band 'd' Precept of £23.88;**
- (b) the Community Project Fund be agreed at £20,000 instead of £31,500;**
- (c) the money currently unspent from the Project Fund for the current year be placed in earmarked reserves identified as 'Capital Project Money'.**

**F44 SECTION 137 LIMIT FOR 2009/10**

It was reported and noted that the Department for Communities and Local Government had confirmed that the appropriate sum for the purposes of section 137(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for Parish and Town Council in England for 2009/10 was £6.15. This was an inflation based increase over the amount set for 2008/9 (£5.86 increased by the retail price index percentage between September 2007 and September 2008 (5%) in accordance with Schedule 12 of the Act).

**F45 TRANSFER OF ASSETS**

The Town Plan Working Party would be looking further at the Transfer of Assets and would report back at a future meeting bearing in mind implications for the future role of the Town Council dependent on a number of factors relating to Government policy.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

**SIGNED.....**

**Chairman**

**DATED.....**