

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY,
16th FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Councillor: S Sutton (Chairman)
Councillors: D Chapman V Duval-Steer
L Elson S Gazzard
P Graham K Harper
J Humphreys J Mitchell
M Mitchell P Stott
J Taylor E Wragg
S Wragg J Whipps

APOLOGIES: Cllrs M Ackland, T Cope, I Stewart, M Williamson, D Nicholas, B Taylor

F46 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2008

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2008 were approved and signed as a correct record.

F47 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded in respect of item 15 on the agenda regarding Land Transactions under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 as it would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted .

F48 TOWN PLAN WORKING PARTY

It was reported that the £4,000 was available in the budget to help support a Community Plan exercise for the town. It was considered necessary to do an initial exercise of gathering all records and reports relevant to Community over the last few decades. Confirmation was sought to employ a suitable person to carry out that work over 4 days in the office and to contact the Exmouth Community College for a suitable candidate from the Sixth Form.

RESOLVED that the above action be confirmed.

F49 ANNUAL SALARIES REVIEW

The Committee received the report of the Town Clerk showing annual incremental progression of salaries for staff.

RESOLVED that

- a) **the annual increments and cost of living pay increases in accordance with the National Conditions of Service be approved for all staff as from 1st April 2009 including nationally agreed allowances.**

- b) That the conditions of service review panel be convened before the next budget round to carry out a review of staff pay and conditions of service.**

F50 FEES AND CHARGES

The Committee received the report of the Town Clerk to review the fees and charges for the year 2009/10. The fees and charges were agreed with the exception of the charges for the services of the caretaker, which the Committee felt should be increased to £10.00 per hour.

The Committee considered allowing Councillors to use the Council Suite free of charge for meetings held with constituents. It was considered that this should be permitted but that a register of such use be kept to record take up by Councillors.

RESOLVED that

a) the annual increase of fees and charges from 1st April 2009 be applied as recommended, subject to the charge for caretaker being increased to £10per hour.

b) Councillors be allowed to use the Council Suite free of charge for meetings held with constituents subject to review in one year's time and a record of such use being kept.

F51 POWER OF WELL BEING

The Committee received and NOTED a copy of a legal briefing from NALC on the Power of Wellbeing and would watch progress on this with interest. The Town Clerk would be attending a DAPC briefing on this on 4th March 2009.

F52 COMPUTER UPGRADES (F25 – 9/08)

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk following consideration by the working group set up at the meeting on 29th September 2008. The original quotation had been increased to take account of extra requirements on the recommendations of the working party and quotes had been received from another firm CNSI which had been considerably higher in price. It was considered that the quote from Electro Computers represented good value. Devon County Supplies had been approached but did not provide quotations for network packages being a specialised area of work.

RESOLVED that an order be placed with Electro Computers at a cost of £6,500 for upgrade of the computer network and telephone system.

F53 JUBILEE CLOCK TOWER

The Committee considered a letter from Peter Higgins of the Exmouth Society requesting the inscription on the seafront Jubilee Clock Tower to be re-engraved.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be requested to write to EDDC and ask for the inscription to be re-engraved if possible before the Easter break.

F54 CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Committee had before it a letter from Mr Ian Cann the Secretary of the Exmouth Society requesting car park charges in Town Centre car parks to be suspended in view of the economic downturn. It was suggested that this would have significant consequences and would be a step too far but that the main shoppers car parks might be provided with free parking after 4.00pm Monday to Friday, Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be requested to write to EDDC to ask that serious consideration be given to this request.

F55 BUS SHELTER – SALTERTON ROAD

The Committee considered the situation of the current bus shelter on Salterton Road adjacent to McDonalds, which had suffered continuous and relentless vandalism since its installation. A proposal to replace panels with a perforated metal sheet system which Councillor Sandy Sutton had sourced was considered. Costs would be met out of the Town Maintenance Budget and should result in constant glass replacement being avoided.

RESOLVED that authority be given to replace 8 of the panels with the metal perforated system on this bus shelter with a view to saving costs on future maintenance.

F56 BLACKMORE THEATRE, EXMOUTH

The Committee received a response from the Corporate Director – Economy of EDDC to this Council’s request to commute the loan from EDDC to the Blackmore Theatre to a grant.

RESOLVED that the reply from EDDC be passed to the Blackmore Theatre and leave it to the Theatre to follow up if it wishes to do so.

F57 JURASSIC COAST COMMUNITIES FORUM

The Committee received a letter from the Team Leader of the Jurassic Coast Team concerning the Town Clerk taking on Chairmanship of the Jurassic Coast Communities Forum. The Committee was satisfied that he should continue to commit some time to attending these meetings which invariably would be during the working day, and report back to this Committee.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to continue to commit time and attend meetings for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site as the Chairman elect of the Communities Forum and report back to this Committee as appropriate.

F58 GRANTS – LETTER OF THANKS

- Exmouth Rowing Club
- Exmouth Carnival
- The Avocet Line Rail Users Group
- Lympstone Amateur Boxing Club
- Vitalise

- **Phear Park Centenary**
- **Exmouth Junior Football Club**

Note:- No Public and Press were present at this point in the meeting.

F59 LAND TRANSACTIONS

1) Disposal of Land – Rear 25A and 25b Greenhill Avenue

Negotiations were still on going so no further report was available.

2) Relocation of Gas Governor Rig – Pound Lane

RESOLVED that the District Valuer’s report of 13th February 2009 be accepted and the transfer of the land be authorised on a long lease of 99 years at a peppercorn rent with a premium of £350 payable at the commencement of the lease.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

SIGNED.....

Chairman

DATED.....