

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 10th JANUARY 2011 AT 7.00PM

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Humphries & J Mitchell

F31 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th NOVEMBER 2010
The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.

F32 URGENT BUSINESS

(1) Snow and Ice

The Committee discussed the recent problems caused by the recent extreme weather. Concerns related to:-

- Pavements in Town Centre
- Off Street Car Parks
- Albion Hill
- St Andrews Road hill below Chapel Hill Roundabout
- Overall strategy for Exmouth to co-ordinate all Local Authorities
- Affect on Bus Services and Refuse Collection Service
- Community Self Help and legal liability
- Fair provision giving parity for each town
- Need for more grit bins and possible use of snow wardens
- Effective equipment fit for purpose

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder for Transport at DCC Councillor Stuart Hughes and an officer be invited to the next meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee on 7th February 2011 to deal with at least some of the concerns which have been identified by the snow fall in December.

(2) Capital Funding – Visitor Centre

It was reported that Devon County Council was considering cutting the funding from the budget of £500,000 originally set aside arising on the Visitor Centre project. This funding had been committed partly from the sale of Exeter Airport. The first concern was to safeguard the allocated money and the second was to agree how this would be used.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be requested write to DCC asking for a deferment of any decision to reduce the capital funding set aside for Exmouth arising from the original Visitor Centre proposal.

F33 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no items on the agenda that required exclusion of the press and public.

F34 REPORT – TOWN MANAGEMENT/BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND STRAND MANAGEMENT

The committee had before it the report of the Town Manager (previously circulated). The report explained proposals for a further evolution of Town Management towards a Business Improvement District being designated in Exmouth. It reported how this could be achieved and the necessary costs involved. It also put forward proposals for future management of the Strand and proposed performance stage by the Town Council as part of the joint arrangements by the three Councils.

It was explained that if a BID was approved following a vote of businesses with the area, yet to be defined, then this would provide continuity for on-going Town Management paid for equally by all businesses. The current system depended on a few committed businesses support of Town Management willingly and generously whilst others contributed little towards the overall improvement of the economic vitality of the town.

The committee was unanimously in favour of pursuing the next steps as outlined in the report together with the interim town management proposals. It was important that the contribution from the Tesco 106 agreement in the sum of £45k was transferred prior to forming a BID company.

Resolved that authority be given to:-

- (a) appointing a BID steering group formed from existing Town Management Partnership which will set the terms and conditions for the following appointments, amongst other things;**
- (b) appointing a BID Director on pre bid work by public advert on a part time consultancy basis;**
- (c) a Limited Company being formed to manage the BID;**
- (d) appointing a BID project manager on a short term/part time contract;**
- (e) upgrading the current Town Management Assistant to grade ED6 spinal column point 27 and from 16 hours per week to 20 hours to take on the role of the Interim Town Management Project Officer from the departure of the Town Manager;**
- (f) increasing the hours of the Festival Organiser to allow his post to include the management of the Strand from 17 hours per week to 20 hours per week (salary cost increase £2,065pa) allowing £4,000 for Strand projects.**

Note:- Report attached to the signed minutes.

F35 BUDGET 2011/12 (F27-11/10)

The Committee had before it the report on the Draft budget referred from the last meeting with the recommended budget for the year 2011/12. The budget had been prepared on the basis that no increase would be applied. The proposals as contained in the report were accepted subject to detailed approval at future meetings as required.

RECOMMENDED that the precept for the year 2011/12 be set at £400,050 equivalent to a band 'D' precept of £30.

Note:- A copy of the budget report and detailed and summary estimates attached to the signed minutes.

F36 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS

(1) Whatever Ministries/Friends of Lovering Farm Estate

The Committee received a request for financial support from 'Whatever Ministries/Friends of Lovering Estate' for a week of activities to support drug and alcohol issues around the area.

RESOLVED that a grant £500 be awarded to Whatever Ministries/Friends of Lovering Estate for the project applied for.

(2) Exmouth and District Allotments Association – Security Signage

The Committee received a request for financial support from Exmouth & District Allotments for a contribution towards cost of signage to improve security.

RESOLVED that a grant of £200 be awarded to Exmouth & District Allotments towards the cost of the signs.

Note:- Cllrs Pat Graham, Steve Wragg & Brenda Taylor declared prejudicial interests as allotment holders and left the room during discussion of this item.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

SIGNED.....

DATED.....