

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 26th JULY 2010 AT 7.00pm

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors V Duval-Steer & J Humphreys

F5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH JUNE 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.

F6 URGENT BUSINESS

None

F7 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 8, Minute F9 below, because it is not in the public interest for the matters to be considered in public as they relate to confidential information relating to staff.

F8 TOWN MANAGEMENT (Min-f3-6/10)

The Town Manager gave a presentation on outcomes arising from the Town Council's key policy of supporting economic development as requested at the last meeting.

He outlined the importance of an effective business sector within the town and the contribution it makes to the community. He explained that of £27m collected in East Devon for National Non-Domestic Rates collected from businesses £1.6m actually comes back to Exmouth. They contributed in many ways to the community and were an important part of it.

He outlined ways forward for supporting a healthy local economy including the possibility of submitting a bid for Exmouth Town Centre to become a Business Improvement District. This would need the support of the business sector as a Bid would allow a small percentage to be added to the NNDR of business within the Bid District towards improvements in managing the Town Centre which would not otherwise be possible.

RESOLVED that support be given for further work to be undertaken to progress a BID as being in the best interests of Exmouth and to find out how this can be progressed.

Note: – A copy of the Power Point presentation by the Town Manager was attached for information.

F9 ROLLE COLLEGE UPDATE

Roy Pryke and Roger Staker – Directors 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 to support community use of part or all of the Rolle Site. The business model which had been set up was explained and the current situation with tenders submitted by ‘Developers’ to the University of Plymouth was reported in general terms. The University was not prepared at this stage to allow specific information concerning contractors whilst negotiations were continuing.

The Committee appreciated the update and the work being carried out by Rolle Exmouth Ltd as a company set up in the community interest and the continuing hope that a community based provision could be achieved on the Rolle Exmouth Site.

The Committee recognised that the request to use some of the £30,000 set aside would be for initial set up costs for Rolle Exmouth Ltd. This would enable it to employ resources to generate income through selling of shares and other activities and to start to create a management structure to manage the significant community based business operation which it wished to create.

RESOLVED that:-

(a) that in addition to the £5,000 authorised previously from the £30,000 set aside for community use of Rolle College Site, authority be given to allow a loan of £11,700 interest free to Rolle Exmouth Ltd to provide it with set up costs if satisfactory negotiations are concluded with the developers chosen by the University of Plymouth;

(b) if a loan is made, it be repaid according to the ability of Rolle Exmouth Ltd to pay once it has started to earn revenue from the site;

Notes:-

(i) Councillor Mark Williamson and John Wokersien declared personal interests as Directors of Rolle Exmouth Ltd.

(ii) The press and public were excluded during consideration of this item (Min F7 above).

F10 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION – LOCAL EXCHANGE TRADING (LETS) (Min- f4 – 6/10)

Delia Pemberton of Exmouth Local Exchange Trading Scheme gave a presentation in support of an application for Financial Assistance which had been deferred from the last meeting for more information. She explained in

detail how the scheme would work and why this should be a positive community project for the town and one which should not threaten to undermine small businesses in the town.

RESOLVED that

- (a) That a grant of £1,000 be given towards establishing the all important interactive website necessary for operating the scheme;**
- (b) Delia Pemberton be requested to give an update on scheme progress in around 6 months time.**

F11 SEAFRONT-FESTOON LIGHTING

The Committee had before it the notes of the Seafront Lights Sub-Committee on continuing maintenance of the seafront festoon lighting taken over from East Devon District Council. A further report of the Town Clerk on the possibilities of conversion of the lights to very low energy lighting LED lighting was also considered.

It identified that £2,264 was estimated from within the budget set for Festoon lights from this year and £5,201 held in earmarked reserves left over from the Project Grant Fund making a total of £7,465 available for conversion to LEDs. The overall cost to convert all the lights to LEDs was estimated at £32,000.

The benefit of conversion to LEDs was that it would reduce energy use, the lights were brighter, the life of the LEDs was much longer than conventional lighting and the test string by Carlton Slipway had been successful.

RESOLVED that

- (a) in principle the conversion to LED lights be approved;**
- (b) the budget of £7,465 be used to buy as many strings as possible in LED lights to be fitted in the Autumn;**
- (c) a sponsorship/adoption scheme be set up on the basis as described in the report;**
- (d) TTE be encouraged to provide a costed and funded solution for sustainable energy supply;**
- (e) that the colour scheme be based on all the colours available but introducing white lights alternately between the coloured bulbs.**

Note:- Report of Town Clerk attached to signed minutes.

F12 EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Committee had before it the revised Partnership agreement to extend the agreement for another 19 months and for which the Council had budgeted for an annual contribution.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to sign the revised Partnership agreement subject to errors concerning the number of partners being corrected.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

SIGNED.....

DATED.....