

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL REGENERATION & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 18th JULY 2011 AT 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors:	P Stott (Chairman)	M Chapman (Vice-Chairman)
	B Cole	T Dumper
	V Duval-Steer	S Gazzard
	J Humphreys	W McConnell
	J Mitchell	C Nicholas
	S Sutton	R Turner
	M Williamson	E Wragg
	S Wragg	

Apologies: Councillors D Chapman and P Graham

G14 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 6th June 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G15 Urgent Business

(i) Rolle College, Exmouth

The Committee **NOTED** the Press Release (previously circulated) which had been issued jointly by the University of Plymouth and Rolle Exmouth Ltd (REL) announcing an agreement for the future use of the Rolle College site in Exmouth. The agreement would allow REL to take over the running of over half of the former academic campus for the benefit of local business, education and local community uses. The University, which owned the site, was prepared to agree an option for REL to then purchase over a three year period. Mr Roy Pryke, Chairman of REL, attended the meeting and explained that this was a great result for Exmouth and thanks were expressed to Roy and the Group for all their hard work and dedication to date.

The Committee offered its unanimous support for the project. RESOLVED that a vote of confidence be given to the Rolle Board asking that all Councillors and Councils get behind this project, leading the whole Town to join together in providing its support.

Note: The Town Clerk declared a personal interest as a Director of Rolle Exmouth Ltd and Councillor M Williamson declared a personal interest as a shareholder.

(ii) Seating in the Strand

Some of the seats were currently fenced off. This was due to maintenance work which involved treatment of hardwood seats with protective oil.

(iii) Coastguard Station Closures

Concern was expressed following the announcement of the closure of Brixham and Portland coastguard stations which would leave no coverage for a large coastline stretching from Dover to Falmouth. The consultation period ends on 6th October 2011. It was felt to be unfair to burden support services with the responsibility without professional help and local expertise. Experience of over dependence on technological solutions over local knowledge has not been good in recent times.

RESOLVED that: -

- (a) a response be sent on the new consultation document with a strong request that both Brixham and Portland stations be retained;**
- (b) a letter be sent to our local MP for his support with a copy to other MP's located along the affected coastline.**

Note: Councillor P Stott declared a personal interest as her Sons were RNLI volunteers.

(iv) Section 106 – Grant for Sports facilities in Exmouth

A further consultation was to take place outside Budgens in Brixington Parade on Monday 8th August 2011 between 8.30am – 11.30am. Jamie Buckley was hoping to obtain views from the over 60's in particular and was seeking Councillor help.

(v) LDF Consultation – Working Party T.A.F.F.

A revised Local Development Framework was about to be published with a six week consultation period. It was decided that a Task and Finish Forum was required to respond.

RESOLVED that an LDF T.A.F.F. be appointed comprising: -

Brixington	Councillor C Nicholas, Councillor T Cope
Halsdon	Councillor L Elson
Littleham	Councillor J Humphreys
Town	Councillor S Gazzard
Withycombe Raleigh	Councillor M Mitchell

(vi) Polling Stations report (update)

Proposed polling station revisions were accepted subject to a comment that signage and access could all be improved, especially for unfamiliar sites.

G16 Exclusion of the Public and Press

There were no items to be dealt with necessitating exclusion of the Public and the Press.

G17 Exmouth Master Plan

It was reported that more consultation sessions would take place and Councillor attendance at the sessions was encouraged. As well as discussing the Masterplan, members of the public were also raising other issues i.e. problems with parking on pavements in the Town and a "Park & Ride" scheme on Summer Sundays. It was also reported that Devon County Council has held in abeyance a decision to use the £100k capital funding originally set aside for Exmouth Visitor Centre then Orcombe Point Interpretation, for providing public toilets related to Seaton Visitor Centre.

G18 Communities Before Developers

Guidance notes prepared by the Town Clerk at Honiton were noted and the implications of signing any pledge were discussed. If any Exmouth Town Councillor had signed this pledge they were advised to speak to the Town Clerk. Councillors need to think carefully before signing pledges or petitions as this, through pre-determination, could hamper their ability to judge individual applications or issues on their merits on a future occasion.

G19 Questions from Public at Council Meeting on 4th July 2011

To consider questions referred from the Public Question at the last meeting of the Council, as follows:-

1. Would the council consider appointing 2 young people from Exmouth to attend Council meetings with the opportunity given to speak but not to vote?
(Question from Mr Jeff Trail)

A full discussion took place. There was concern that if one section of the Community sought special rights then other sections of the Community could make similar demands. Also the request was not coming from young people themselves. It was suggested, however, that all main Committees could allow for a public session at the beginning of each meeting.

RECOMMENDATION that 15 minutes be allowed for public speaking at the beginning of Finance Committee and Regeneration and General Purposes Committee subject to appropriate conditions similar to Planning Committee.

2. Would the Council consider asking the Returning Officer to review his advice concerning a Town Poll relating to the proposed building in the Strand?
(Question from Mr Ron Roberts)

It was **AGREED** to respond as follows: -

Response: -

The Returning Officer had a statutory position and had responded to both requests for a poll on the basis that the Town Council would not have the power to implement the result of any Poll on this subject. At this point in time there was no power to call a referendum at Principle Council level. In the circumstances any question on the legality of the Returning Officer's decision should be taken up directly with him by the parties concerned.

3. Would the Town Council make representations to implement/enforce byelaws in the Strand to prevent skateboarding/riding of bicycles and ball games in the Strand?
(Question from Mrs Jacquie Heywood)

It was **AGREED** to respond as follows: -

Response: -

Recent advice from East Devon District Council indicated that there were byelaws in place, so the question was one of enforcement.

The Committee may wish to raise this with both the District Council and the Police to ask them to ensure that their officers are aware of the powers to take action and to do so where nuisance was being caused.

It was **NOTED** that signs were proposed by the District Council.

Councillor Gazzard referred to a letter from a Mother of a skateboarder giving another point of view. She might wish to speak to the Committee if public sessions are agreed.

G20 Schedule of Meetings – Draft 2012

Approved by the Committee.

G21 Community Planning

The Community Organisations Liaison Panel had considered the need for resource to take forward the drawing of a Community Plan for Exmouth. This was a considerable exercise for a Town the size of Exmouth. An amount of £4,000 was currently in the budget to start the process. Whilst the Town Clerk had hoped to be able to start the process, with current levels of work load, this had proved to be impossible. Whilst recruiting for BID support the interview panel met some excellent freelance professionals who would have the skills to assist. COLP requested this Committee to authorise for recruitment of some professional help by public advert to help start the work as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that the Finance Committee be requested to authorise appointment of professional support to start the process.

G22 Notes of Meetings – Clerks and Chairmen

Notes were submitted from the meetings held on 9th June 2011 (East Devon Towns) and 21st June 2011 (Otter to Exe Group) and these were **NOTED**.

G23 Other Bodies - Updates

(i) Exmouth Regeneration Board

The LDA study had gone before EDDC Development Management Committee and the consultation process was in hand.

(ii) Community Organisations Liaison Panel

Some members had welcomed the LDA Masterplan as a basis for consultation but reservations had been expressed by others. The Key Principles were accepted. A request to show Councillors a video of traffic movements in the new configuration in Rolle Street was agreed for showing to the Town Council meeting. The Civic Society had prepared a proposed policy for the Strand. It was **NOTED** that this would be taken into account when the Town Council wrote its policy.

(iii) Exmouth Action Group

Councillor Gazzard would be attending the next meeting and would prepare his report for all members as usual.

The Meeting ended at 8.47 pm

Signed **Dated**

Chairman