

# 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 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008 AT 7.30pm

### Present:

|              |               |                    |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Councillors: | D Chapman     | P Stott (Chairman) |
|              | V Duval-Steer | R Turner           |
|              | P Graham      | J Whipps           |
|              | J Mitchell    | M Williamson       |
|              | M Mitchell    | E Wragg            |

**Apologies:** Councillors M Chapman, M Hardy, J Humphries, D Nicholas & S Wragg

**Guest Speaker:** Police Inspector Jez Capey

### G33 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

### G34 Urgent Business

Cllr. J Mitchell asked whether the 'Old Swimming Pool' site would recommence with its works, when the footpath would be re-opened and would it be ready for summer 2009. It was explained that work was expected to resume shortly.

### G35 Exclusion of the Public and Press

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

### G36 Exmouth Police

Police Inspector Jez Capey gave an update on local policing issues. He reported that Exmouth's total crime figures were overall good and that there had been a reduction in crime of 10.6% on last year's figures and a further 3.6% since April this year. Violent crime had increased by approximately 15% in the town centre and reference was made in particular to the ongoing problem of young drinkers and the availability of cheap alcohol.

Inspector Capey referred to a paper that had previously been circulated to members on 'Partners and Communities Together' (PACT). Brixington PACT panel was already up and running. The PACT process would be rolled out to all wards in due course and Inspector Capey hoped that Councillors would take an active role in leading the process. This would give an opportunity to learn about and understand the concerns within communities and to develop locally based solutions.

Councillors expressed their concern that residents were parking illegally, particularly at night and causing obstruction on double yellow lines in certain areas of the town. It was noted that it was exactly this kind of 'low level' behaviour that PACT would be able to review.

Members requested that thanks be passed on to Sgt Nick Southern and his team for the football day they put on for local youngsters at Exmouth Rugby Club.

### **G37 Communities in control – Real People – Real Power – The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws**

The paper was welcomed by the members with a view to the future should Exmouth Town Council take on further delegated powers. A definition was requested on who were the 'interested parties' in Exmouth and what was deemed a public forum? Consultation on the paper would end on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2008.

**RESOLVED that the Town Council respond by welcoming the proposals but raising some questions as above.**

### **G38 Public Toilets – Standards of Maintenance and Opening Hours**

Complaints had been received from members of the public that the toilets at the Orcombe Point end of the beach were closed for the winter period from the end of September to the 1<sup>st</sup> April and that there was no sign to direct the public to an alternative. Councillor Harper had carried out a survey of all the public toilets in Exmouth and presented this to the meeting. They were considered to be generally dirty and in poor condition. On consulting EDDC they had referred the matter back to the Town Council if improvements were sought.

**RESOLVED that**

- (a) the report of Cllr. Harper be forwarded to EDDC;**
- (b) EDDC be requested to extend the opening of Orcombe Point toilets by 1 month at the beginning and end of the summer season;**
- (c) the Town Plan Working Party be requested to include public toilets within its consideration and question availability of S106 usage including the Marina development;**
- (d) that EDDC be asked to deal with maintenance issues outstanding.**

### **G39 Tourism**

The committee had before it a paper written by Councillor. S Gazzard on Tourism which asked EDDC to urgently review its policy on funding towards promoting tourism in Exmouth. Members thanked Cllr. S Gazzard for his report. Councillors. I Stewart, M Williamson and V Duval-Steer would be meeting Councillor Peter Halse with reference to medium term funding provision for the TIC and Tourism promotion.

**RESOLVED that a report on progress with EDDC be brought back to the next meeting.**

### **G40 Commons Act**

The Committee had before it a letter from Devon County Council dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008 which asked for updates on the registration of Common Land. The letter was noted.

**G41 Fairtrade and Transition Towns**

The committee was asked to consider a proposed resolution submitted by Transition Town Exmouth and a proposed resolution submitted by Fairtrade Exmouth.

**RECOMMENDATION that the resolutions be adopted as follows:-**

**(a) that Exmouth Town Council, as an important consumer and opinion leader, supports the strategy of Transition Town Exmouth to:-**

- **Explore and follow pathways of practical actions that will reduce Exmouth’s carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, in line with the Government commitments;**
- **To build Exmouth’s resilience through working towards self-reliance in areas such as food, energy, healthcare, jobs and economies;**
- **To work towards an Exmouth using much less energy and resources than currently consumed.**

**(b) that Exmouth Town Council, as an important consumer and opinion leader, supports a strategy to facilitate the promotion and purchase of products with the Fairtrade Mark and will:-**

- **contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the Fairtrade Mark aiming to achieve Fairtrade Town Status for Exmouth;**
- **offer Fairtrade Marked food and drink where possible and make them available for internal meetings;**
- **seek to encourage local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for customers;**
- **support the local group in its endeavours to increase the awareness of Fairtrade Options amongst people and businesses;**
- **support the initiative in the media where opportunities arise**

**G42 Port-en-Bessin - Happain – Normandy - Visit**

A request from the Mayor and Town Clerk for authorisation for the fuel costs for travelling from Exmouth to Portsmouth and Caen to Port-en-Bessin, approximately 300 miles be reimbursed as an Approved Duty. This related to GP Council Minutes G50-12/07 when it was agreed in Principle that links with the two towns be explored.

**RESOLVED that the visit of the Mayor and Town clerk with their spouses to Port-en- Bessin – Happain be authorised as an Approved duty for payment of mileage costs.**

The meeting closed at 9.09 p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....