

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EXMOUTH ON MONDAY 31ST MARCH 2008 AT 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
T Cope D Chapman
D Nicholas V Duval-Steer
R Turner J Whipps
K Harper M Chapman
M Williamson P Graham
J Mitchell B Walker

Apologies: Councillor S Wragg

Observers: Councillor S Sutton, L Elson

G68 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

G69 Urgent Business

A request to use the Town Council's Coat of Arms on certificates to be issued by Exmouth in Bloom as part of their 'Pride in Exmouth' campaign was considered. The application fulfilled the Council's criteria for the use of its Coat of Arms.

RESOLVED that the Exmouth Tidy Group be permitted to use the Town Council Coat of Arms on the 'Pride in Exmouth' certificates.

G70 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

G71 Dangerous Drivers Reduction Action Group (DDRAG)

The Committee had before it a report of the Town Clerk circulated to Councillors only.

A presentation from Georgina Martin, the Devon County Council Safety Officer, on the proposals arising from meetings of the DDRAG was received by the Committee together with a report written by Inspector Jez Capey of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. Steve Purchell, the temporary Local Fire Chief at Exmouth Fire Station was also invited to comment.

Detailed consideration was given to proposals being put forward and the implications for the town, residents and young people.

The question of gating Queens Drive was also raised in view of an order being sought to provide for closure in the evenings and at night time.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the work of the sub-group be supported and the proposals contained in the notes of the meeting held on 4th March be supported providing robust processes are in place to ensure that proposals are well managed;**
- (b) that the police records be monitored to see whether proposals result in a reduction of problems of Anti-Social and Illegal driving behaviour and become a positive part of the portfolio of actions already taken relating to these problems;**
- (c) that representatives of the local residents be involved in the planning and in helping to provide local feedback on the outcomes.**

G72 Police Update

Sergeant Nick Southern, Community Policing Sergeant for Exmouth, gave the Committee an update on Policing Issues in Exmouth on behalf of Inspector Jez Capey. He explained that last year, Exmouth was the second best area in Devon for the reduction and detection of crime, and the current major initiative in Exmouth was for neighbourhood policing.

Graffiti and vandalism in the Avenues continued to be a problem but was being reduced. The police were liaising with the Community College on this matter. Graffiti was removed by the Town Maintenance Partnership and the Street Scene React team were also being used. Where possible and with permission of the property owners, the React team could remove graffiti from private properties for a charge of £30.

G73 Town Meeting

The Committee had before it a copy of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 17th March 2008. The issue of car parking charges in Exmouth had been raised by an elector. Discussion on whether charges should be made, how they should be increased and implemented, and whether charges should be made for disabled drivers in off street car parks took place. It was also pointed out that the new car park charges now did not differentiate between long stay and short stay car parking as before and had upset the balance. Long Stay in the Estuary Car Parks at 85p per hour would now penalise long stay car parking and those wishing to park and ride on the train.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Town Council request EDDC to consult Exmouth Town Council on future car park charging proposals;**
- (b) that the rational in respect of the new car parking regime be challenged in respect of long stay car parking;**
- (c) that the benefit of charging disabled car parking within off-street car parks be again challenged as this displaces disabled car parking onto roads where waiting restrictions are in place.**

G74 Flower Towers

It was noted that three new bases had been provided for flower towers to move them from the trees adjacent to the football club.

RESOLVED that the provision of three new bases for flower towers on Marine Way on the opposite side from the railway line at a cost of £400 be confirmed.

G75 Parish Lengthsman

A letter from the Area Engineer East explaining arrangements for the Parish Lengthsman service was received by the Committee and NOTED.

G76 Clean Neighbourhoods and the Environment Act 2005

The Committee received a list of the proposed changes to the Dog Control Areas in Exmouth. It was noted that the changes included the incorporation of a large number of Children's Play Areas.

RESOLVED that the proposals be accepted subject to a request being made to add Withycombe Raleigh Football pitches to the areas covered by a dog ban.

G77 Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board

The Council was invited to appoint two members to the Exmouth regeneration Programme Board to attend the first meeting which was expected to be convened before the Annual Council meeting. The Annual Council meeting would then be requested to confirm appointments made for the year ahead.

RESOLVED that Councillors M Williamson and P Stott be appointed to represent Exmouth Town Council on the Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board.

G78 Royal Garden Party

A letter had been received from Devon Association of Parish and Town Councils inviting nominations for the County draw for attendance at the Royal Garden Party on 15th July 2008.

RESOLVED that the Mayor, and partner, be nominated to be entered into draw for attendance at the Royal Garden Party on 15th July 2008 although was noted that the closing date on the letter had passed.

G79 General Purposes Working Group

A report of the cross-party working group established to review the Regeneration role of the Council was received by the committee. Some discussion took place regarding how this fitted in with the current Committee structure and on the recommendations therein.

RECOMMENDED that

- a) the name of the General Purposes Committee be changed to the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee;**
- b) the Terms of Reference detailed in the Report of the General Purposes Working Group be agreed;**
- c) In view of the establishment of the Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board, the Regeneration of Exmouth Working Group be abolished.**

The meeting closed at 9:05 p.m.

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

