

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010 AT 7.00pm

### **Present:**

Councillors: M Chapman (Deputy Chairman)  
D Chapman                      T Cope  
V Duval-Steer                  S Gazzard  
P Graham                        J Humphreys  
J Mitchell                        D Nicholas  
S Sutton                         B Taylor  
R Turner                         M Williamson  
E Wragg                         S Wragg

**Apologies:** Councillors M Hardy, P Stott, B Walker & J Whipps

### **G13 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **G14 Urgent Business**

Congratulations were conveyed to the Mayor on his recent engagement to Laura.

### **G15 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

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

### **G16 Exmouth Action Group**

A report from the Cllr. Steve Gazzard was received (previously circulated) which followed his attendance at the Exmouth Action Group meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010. A presentation had been received from the manager of the Devon and Cornwall Probation Trust whose offenders had successfully completed schemes on Exmouth seafront and in Phear Park. Actions arising were **NOTED**.

### **G17 Dates of meetings 2011**

The dates of meetings that would be held in 2011 were agreed. Confirmation of the date of the Annual Town Council meeting which followed the Local Elections was confirmed. A request was made for a meeting of the Chairman's Group and the Budget Sub Group.

### **G18 Seasonal Issues**

Consideration was given to the present state of Seasonal Issues.

#### **(1) Speeding boats**

The present position was that there was no enforcement of speeding craft on the river. The dangers to swimmers and boaters continued to be a concern.

**RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the Harbour Master, Exe Estuary Partnership and the Police to express this Council's concern.**

**(2) Dogs on the beach**

Dogs had been present on parts of Exmouth beach where the summer byelaw restricted them from going. EDDC Dog Warden had all of East Devon area to patrol and it was unrealistic to expect their presence at all times in Exmouth. A suggestion was made for extra signs on the beach side of the sea wall to heighten dog owner's awareness together with a request for the local press to carry out a survey to establish residents' thoughts on dogs using the beach. It could be that Exmouth residents would wish to support a dedicated resource in the provision of an Exmouth Dog Warden funded through Council Tax.

**(3) Seagulls (Council Minute 22 – 6/10)**

Rubbish strewn across the Town on a Thursday mornings was a continuing issue. Whilst the new recycling regime should resolve much of the problem it was suggested that action could be taken on the basis that 'Exmouth Town Council expects all landlords to provide impenetrable containers for all domestic refuse'. The letter to be sent to all Letting Agencies and EDDC to be issued when a property becomes let or there was a change of use of a property to multi occupancy. Advice was received at the meeting that seagull sacks would be made available through EDDC when wheelie bins were rolled out fully in Exmouth this autumn.

A further proposal was made to request that Streetscene replace, when necessary, open topped litter bins with closing litter bins to prevent seagulls from pulling out black bin liners, in particular litter bins that were currently in place on the Maer.

**RESOLVED that**

- a) a letter be sent to Exeter City Council, with a copy to Inspector Jez Capey and Exe Estuary Partnership to raise concerns about speeding boats and jet skis and the possibility of accidents happening in the Exe Estuary due to lack of enforcement;**
- b) a meeting of the Seafront Working Party be convened;**
- c) a letter be sent to EDDC asking them to support requesting landlords to provide impenetrable containers for domestic waste and to ensure all future litter bins are self closing.**

**G19 Shoppers Survey**

Cllr. S Gazzard reported that a full report on the recently carried out Shoppers Survey would not be available until the all the data had be collated when the Town Manager met with Devon County Council later that week. The full report to be scheduled on the Full Council agenda to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010. A report was received on empty shops in Exmouth and there were currently less empty shops than 12 months ago although some empty shops were in a bad state and let down the shopping areas. Exmouth Town Council had limited powers and currently no legal right to contact landlords of empty shops in the Town so EDDC to be asked to send a letter in conjunction with Exmouth Town Council. There was particular focus on the untidy state of one property in Exeter Road as the window was covered in yellow newspapers and a huge pile of mail was present on the floor which was seen as a potential fire hazard.

**RESOLVED that**

- a) **EDDC be asked to enforce the Empty Shops act 156-159;**
- b) **a request be sent to EDDC to take action over the property identified in Exeter Rd, in respect of the window and the potential fire hazard created by unopened mail; \***
- c) **the Town Manager be requested to send a letter to the owners of empty shops as they become empty with advice on how to ensure that they remain well presented.**

**Note \*):** The registered owner was listed at the actual address according to the Land Registry. Writing to this address, as they are clearly not collecting post, would be fruitless. At this time no other information was available and it was likely that the owner was now absent and would prove very difficult to contact.

**G20 Exmouth Project Regeneration Board**

A progress report was given on items that had been discussed at the Exmouth Project Regeneration Board meeting.

**G21 Community Organisations Liaison**

The notes of the meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 had been previously circulated to members and their contents noted.

**G22 Rolle College Site (Min G54/11/09)**

The University of Plymouth had made their decision on the tenders received. Rolle College Ltd would await the outcome and whether the selected company would be prepared to work with the community.

Note: Cllr. Mark Williamson and John Wokersien, Town Clerk, declared a personal interest as Directors of Rolle College Ltd.

The Meeting ended at 8.13pm

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

Chairman