

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 13th DECEMBER 2010 AT 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
D Chapman M Chapman
T Cope S Gazzard
M Hardy J Mitchell
D Nicholas B Taylor
R Turner J Whipps
E Wragg S Wragg

Apologies: Councillors V Duval-Steer, P Graham, J Humphreys, S Sutton, B Walker & M Williamson

Guest Speakers: Dennis Boobier, EDDC Housing Needs & Strategy Manager and Jayne Carroll, NHS Director of Strategic Commissioning.

G61 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 1st November 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the addition of a bullet point added to Minute G51 Withycombe brook – Valley Park “The members appointed to the Site Inspection Meeting be continued as a sub-committee as necessary”.

G62 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business. Two items were added to the agenda; Section 106 Agreements and selection of Members of the Community Plan Sub Group.

G63 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for Item 9 of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

G64 Presentations

- (i) Dennis Boobier, EDDC Housing Needs & Strategy Manager, gave members an overview on how the Devon Homes Choice Letting Scheme worked. It was made up of ten housing schemes within Devon which followed the same rules, application forms, health and well being panels, with some adjustments applied on a local basis and was needs led in respect of applicants. Applicants on an equal basis could apply/bid for properties via the internet or the Homes Choice Publication. Housing Officers had the ability to bid on behalf of vulnerable people should it be felt that a property would be suitable. The system was open and transparent. Currently they were approximately 2,700 applicants within Devon banded between A and E, the main bidders being in group A – C. Questions were asked by

members on possible down-sizing of council property occupancy and an increase in cash incentives for tenants to encourage down-sizing.

- (ii) Jayne Carroll, NHS Director of Strategic Commissioning, gave a power point presentation on the current two year interim strategic commissioning programme for Community Health Services. There would be a major shift in commissioning services, the PCT would be disbanded in 2013 and Services would be GP lead. The new Health Bill when published would contain more detail on changes ahead. North Devon Health Care Trust would host East Devon and Torbay South Devon. Devon County Council Children and Young Peoples Services would in the future run the NHS Children's Services. Cementing localism was the aim and outcome to be achieved. Questions were asked by members, in particular why had it been decided that North Devon Health Care Trust would be better qualified to run East Devon, there was to be a big reduction in DCC CYPS staff which could affect NHS Children's service delivery and would Exmouth Hospital be reviewed in view of the scale and needs of Exmouth? The Committee was concerned about the lack of localism demonstrated and the need for a better dialogue at local level.

G65 Town Council Elections 2011 – Raising Awareness of Local Elections

Consideration was given as to whether some local promotion arrangements needed to take place to raise public awareness of the forthcoming local elections on 5th May 2011. South West Conference of Local Councils Associations had provided a pre-elections pack with suggestions. Councillor S Gazzard proposed, seconded by Councillor D Nicholas that a presentation be made available in the Town Hall, one evening and a Saturday in January to enable members of the public to drop in for information.

RESOLVED that a presentation be made available in the Town Hall, one evening and a half day Saturday in January to enable members of the public to drop in and talk with Councillors to encourage people to stand for election.

G66 Town Centre Car Parking

Chairman, Councillor P Stott made a request of the Committee to ask if a Devon County Council Highways representative would be prepared to review all the no waiting areas and loading bays within Exmouth with the aim that more on street parking could be permitted.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be requested to write to Devon County Council Highways to request a meeting with a Highways Engineer with the five ward Councillors and Councillor P Stott.

G67 Exeter Road – Indian Ocean Vacant Shop Unit

Councillor S Gazzard gave an update on Indian Ocean Shop which was located in Exeter Road and had been vacant for a long time. The shop had given cause for concern, in particular the possible fire hazard it presented and that it did not promote regeneration within the town. Some work had been carried out but had now stopped. Councillor S Gazzard was continuing to press for a resolution of this situation.

G68 Section 106 Agreements

The Committee had before them the minutes of the Section 106 Sub-Committee meeting held on 2nd December 2010. A total of £155,162 was available for provision of formal recreation in Exmouth. Exmouth Town Council needed to give thought as to how this money could be spent and were there particular projects that could be identified as options.

A request was made that this topic be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next full Council meeting. The budget would be allocated to selected projects chosen through a participatory budgeting exercise run by EDDC.

RESOLVED that this topic be placed on the agenda of the next full Council meeting for discussion.

G69 Community Plan Sub Group

A Community Plan Sub Group needed to be established in order to consider how the Steering Group for the Community Plan would be formed. A decision had been made by Colp that there would be 5 member representatives of Community Groups and the 5 Town Council ward members to form the basis of the Community Plan Sub Group.

RESOLVED that the five representatives of Community Groups that were members of COLP and the five Town Council ward members on Colp should form the basis of the Community Plan Sub Group.

Note:

No Press and Public were then present in the Chamber.

G70 Prince of Wales Awards

Consideration was given to nominate an organisation in Exmouth for the Prince of Wales Award. Members requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next full Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the item be placed on the agenda of the next full Council meeting for discussion.

The Meeting ended at 8.58 pm

Signed Dated

Chairman