

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 JULY 2009 AT 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors: P Stott (Chairman)
M Chapman (Deputy Chairman)
D Chapman V Duval-Steer
S Gazzard P Graham
M Hardy J Mitchell
B Taylor R Turner
B Walker M Williamson
E Wragg S Wragg

Apologies: Councillors T Cope, D Nicholas & J Whipps

Note: EDDC Environmental Health Officer, Jill Wheller, unable to attend therefore Item 5 of the Agenda deferred.

G13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 1st June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

G14 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

G15 Exclusion of the Public and Press

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

G16 Empty Closed Shops Survey in Exmouth

Councillor S Gazzard led a discussion on the four monthly survey he had recently carried out on empty closed shops in the town (report previously circulated). He reported that some empty shops had been occupied and that some were in the process of currently being revamped. The Town Manager, responded that Exmouth had half the number of retail units empty compared with the National trend. Local retailers had stated that business had improved in recent months. Town Management was developing a policy document to help manage issues around street furniture, A boards, displays, flower baskets and signage which would encourage a better balance between the needs of businesses in the town against the needs of people.

G17 Cafe Proposal in the Manor Gardens

The District Council had refused the application for a catering establishment in the town's Manor Gardens which the Town Council had supported. The Committee considered what further action, if any, they needed to take.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be requested to write to East Devon District Council to re emphasise that this Council would welcome, on a trial basis, a catering facility in keeping with the environment of the Manor Gardens which would enhance that facility to the local community and tourists and accepts that this may include a tendering process if the trial proves to be successful.

G18 Exmouth Transport Partnership

The Committee received the notes of the meeting held on 8th May 2009.

G19 Litter Arising from Refuse

The Committee had a request for action to be taken to solve the refuse problem that existed within the town, particularly on a Thursday morning, created by seagulls emptying the contents of black bin liners put out the night before. Questions included :-

- When would the allocation of the wheelie bin system be rolled out in Exmouth?
- The current cost incurred by Streetscene to clear up the mess
- The provision by EDDC of fold over canvas bags or larger wheeled containers as an interim measure

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be requested to write to East Devon District Council to request that they ask landlords to supply secure bins or containers for their tenant's rubbish and to pursue interim solutions until wheelie bins are introduced in 2010.

G20 Weeds

Concerns were raised about weeds and long grass in areas within the town particularly as Exmouth in Bloom competition would take place next week.

There was a large bank of long grass and weeds inside the fence at Exmouth Football Club. There were other areas such as open spaces and play areas that were in a similar state.

NOTED that the Town Clerk would contact Exmouth Football Club asking them to cut the weeds along their boundary.

G21 Exe Estuary Partnership Annual Review 2008/9

A copy of the annual review on the work of the Partnership had been received by the Committee which commented that it demonstrated a good work programme. There would be a funding gap in the Exe Estuary Partnership funds next year. It was pointed out that Exeter City Council would not contribute until a New Port Authority was created. Their contribution would solve the funding issue.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be requested to write to Exeter City Council on that issue.

G22 Exe Estuary Harbour Patrol

It was reported that the Police would not support the Exe Estuary Harbour Patrol vessel next year. Consideration was given to the implications of that decision.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Inspector Jez Capey asking the Police to reconsider their decision.

G23 Shoreline Management Plan

The Committee had before it a draft plan for consultation. Reference was made to pages 33 & 34 and section 6a45, 6a46 & 6b01 in Appendix G. Section 6a45 made reference to the medium term plan to provide a new groyne field between Exmouth slipway and the Octagon. The previous groynes had not been maintained in this area and fallen into disrepair.

RESOLVED that in response to the consultation it be requested that groynes reinstated be made a higher priority.

G24 Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board

No meeting had taken place so nothing to report.

G25 Exmouth Rowing Club

Councillor R Turner put forward a proposal that Exmouth Town Council support Exmouth Rowing Club to secure the lease of the old RNLI station when the current lease expired in March 2010. The RNLI wished to extend the lease on this building to accommodate the lifeguard operation which they had recently taken over. A request was made for a meeting to be organised between representatives who could explore ways forward to assist the Rowing Club in securing premises for the future.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be asked to seek to arrange a meeting with a representative of the Rowing Club, Karime Hassan, East Devon Property Services, Councillors R Turner, E Wragg & M Williamson to look at the needs of water based leisure organisations on the seafront and how this could be accommodated within future redevelopment on the seafront.

The Meeting ended at 9.12 pm

Signed Dated

Chairman