

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011 AT 7.20pm

### **Present:**

Councillors:	P Stott (Chairman)	M Chapman (Vice-Chairman)
	B Cole	D Chapman
	T Dumper	V Duval-Steer
	S Gazzard	P Graham
	W McConnell	J Mitchell
	C Nicholas	S Sutton
	R Turner	M Williamson
	S Wragg	

**Apologies:** Cllrs. J Humphreys and E Wragg

### **G51 Town Management**

The Chairman welcomed the public and members to the meeting and read out a statement which referred to agenda items 6 and 7 relating to Town Management and Purple Flag.

‘The Council’s Chairmen’s Group have discussed the current situation where any work on progressing a Business Improvement District has been paused. It was felt that this gives everyone the chance to take a breath and consider the next steps.

The current financial crisis is biting strongly at local level affecting people and businesses in all kinds of ways and therefore more thought needs to be given as to how to respond locally to support people and the local economy in the best way possible.

It is also recognised that retailers feel isolated at the present time and there is a need to do more to work with them, to get closer to the problems they face and understand what they would most like from their Council and also how they can work better collectively to weather the current financial storm.

Within the discussion it was thought that now – just before Christmas – was not the best time to make decisions with it traditionally being the busiest time of year. It was felt that in the New Year some meetings should be arranged whereby discussions can be held with retailers to engage with them better.’

Following this statement the Chairman asked that items 6 and 7 be deferred.

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### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time.

Mr Geoff Morris, Chairman of the Exmouth Residents Association asked two questions and made a statement about the Exmouth Masterplan.

1. Following the recent sale of Littleham toilets would the Town Council provide their policy on public toilets in the Town?

2. The agenda item on Town Management had been postponed. In light of this could community groups now be asked for their comments?

These items were addressed later in the meeting.

Mr Morris considered that the Exmouth Masterplan had been published but that there was no evidence that changes requested by community groups had been included apart from the addition of a play area for smaller children.

The Chairman gave responses to the questions and stated that the Town Council did not have responsibility for the Town's public toilets and therefore did not hold a policy on them. The agenda item for Town Management had been deferred to enable the opportunity for local businesses and community groups to engage in discussion. A newspaper article would follow which would invite responses from a wider group. Colp had responded to the final Masterplan document and had generally accepted the outcomes subject to some caveats.

**Note:** The Chairman then reconvened the Council meeting.

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### **G52 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Regeneration and General Purposes Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011, with the addition of Cllr. M Williamson who had given his apologies, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **G53 Urgent Business**

There was one item of urgent business. Councillor P Graham suggested that two trees could be planted in Phear Park to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration next year. Mark Pollard, EDDC Parks Officer had offered to prepare two plots. The Committee supported the idea and asked that more detail be supplied in respect of type of trees and cost to enable the Finance Committee to consider funding.

### **G54 Exclusion of the Public and Press**

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

### **G55 Public Toilets - Littleham**

A question had been raised by Mr Geoff Morris at the Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December which asked whether the Town Council had been consulted by East Devon District Council on the sale of Littleham public toilets and what was the view of the Council? The Town Council had not been consulted and Littleham Ward Councillors had written to EDDC to state this and had received an apology. The toilets would have cost in the region of £25,000 to upgrade. Simon Yates, EDDC's Senior Officer for Economy had written to the Town Council to inform them that they had received 5 bids for the toilets. They had accepted a bid which identified the use of the toilets, subject to planning permission, as offices and storage and would the Town Council support that usage?

**RESOLVED that the Town Council does not object to the sale of the toilets in Littleham.**

### **G56 Town Management**

A decision had been made at the Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December to pause the implementation of the BID and consideration be given to the implications of that decision for Town Management. This item was now deferred to enable wider engagement.

**G57 Purple Flag**

A motion had been adopted at the Council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December ‘That this Council considers obtaining the Purple Flag for Better Town Centres at Night’ and that consideration be given to the next steps. Members had already received a paper with gave explanations of the scheme downloaded from the Purple Flag website. This item was now deferred to enable engagement of businesses and community groups.

**G58 EDDC Shaping the Future Document**

The Council was invited to respond to the document (already received) on the questionnaire provided. Authorisation was requested for nominated Councillors to make a response on the Council’s behalf.

**RESOLVED that Councillors T Cope, T Dumper and B Nash complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Town Council.**

**G59 Dog Control Orders – Proposed Changes**

The Committee **NOTED** the email from East Devon District Council about changes proposed to correct errors in the original order (copy previously circulated).

**G60 Exe Estuary Partnership – Agreement Renewal**

Authorisation was sought for approval for the Town Clerk to sign the Exe Estuary Partnership Agreement (copy previously circulated) for the next 3 years.

**RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to sign the agreement for the next 3 years.**

**G61 Sports Centre Presentation**

Councillors had attended the LED presentation on aspirations to improve the Sports Centre led by Peter Gilpin, Chief Executive of LED. He had requested that the Town Council commit to supporting redevelopment plans for the Sports Centre to ensure that it is not actively included in future regeneration plans for the town. The Local Plan Working Party TAFF would need to request that the Sports Centre be removed from the LEX5 policy and would not be contained in any future redevelopment.

**RECOMMENDATION that the Town Council write to East Devon District Council and the Local Plan Working Party TAFF to request that the Sports Centre be removed from the LEX5 policy and not to be contained in any future redevelopment so as to enable refurbishment and a secure future for the Sports Centre.**

**G62 Master Plan for Exmouth**

Following public consultation The Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront Master Plan had been endorsed by EDDC for decision making purposes. The Town Council was invited to support this endorsement. A copy of the report considered by EDDC’s Development Management Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> December had been previously circulated and Councillor Tim Wood had confirmed that staff resources would be committed towards the implementation of the Masterplan. Following discussion members gave endorsement to the Masterplan.

**RESOLVED that the Town Council support the implementation and endorsement of the Masterplan.**

### **G63 Police Station Relocation**

A request had been received from ex Devon County Councillor Ken Turner to request that the Town Council ask the Police to consider relocating the Police Station to Liverton Business Park and to provide a Police Base in a Town Centre Shop unit so as to release the present Police Station Site for Housing. It was thought that following previous discussion with Police members that the building was owned by the Courts but that a letter would be written by the Town Council to Police Property Services to ask them to consider the request.

### **G64 Royal Marines Parade**

Mr Jeff Trail raised the question of a Parade by the Royal Marines in March 2013 to exercise their rights to march through the town with bayonets fixed and standards flying. He had been liaising with the Marines and would be happy to assist with arrangements if authority was given to proceed.

#### **RESOLVED that**

- (a) to invite the Royal Marines to march through the Town followed by a civic reception at a date to be agreed.**
- (b) they be asked if they can supply a badge for placement on the Town Crier's cape.**
- (c) consideration be also given to an invitation to the Rifles to exercise their adoption rights at another time following the Marines event.**
- (d) consideration be given to the provision of Plaques on the War Memorial to represent losses incurred within the Rifles and the Marines in current battles as part of the ceremonies.**

### **G65 Other Bodies - Updates**

#### **(i) Exmouth Regeneration Board**

Work had commenced on the interpretation space at Orcombe Point. The development briefs for LDF and the Masterplan had been published.

#### **(ii) Community Organisations Liaison Panel**

Recent notes had been distributed. Tim Bevan, Devon Renaissance, had attended Colp and was in the process of forming a Steering Group for Community Planning.

#### **(iii) Exmouth Action Group**

Crime rates had been reported as still falling but future cut backs within the Police Force may alter that pattern.

#### **(iv) Rolle Ltd**

Exmouth Community College who now had Academy status was currently not able to pursue the use of Rolle College as a Post 16 facility due to financial restrictions. Other users were being sought. A public meeting would be held in the New Year which would give details of shares. Ex Rolle students had expressed an interest in purchasing shares.

**Note:** The Town Clerk declared an interest as a Director of Rolle Ltd and Cllrs. P Graham and V Duval-Steer as Governors of Exmouth Community College.

The Meeting ended at 8.07 pm

**Signed .....** **Dated .....**

Chairman